

THE MORNING CALL

Lehigh Valley manufacturer says its new \$20 million warehouse is a commitment to local operations



The construction site is seen during a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, for the expansion of Bosch Rexroth's facility along City Line Road in Bethlehem. The company makes drive and control devices for various industrial applications. (Amy Shortell/The Morning Call)

By Evan Jones | ejones@mcall.com | The Morning Call | August 20, 2025

For Bosch Rexroth's Lehigh Valley operations, having two separate facilities about 6 miles apart wasn't the most productive way to do business.

Even in the age of cellphones and emails, moving product between its main industrial hydraulics plant at Lehigh Valley Industrial Park I in Bethlehem and its warehouse in Bethlehem Township could put the company in a jam.

To help expedite deliveries, Bosch Rexroth is moving the warehouse to Bethlehem, next door to its manufacturing facility across the street from Lehigh Valley International Airport.

It broke ground on the future 50,000-square-foot warehouse Wednesday, with a scheduled completion date of September 2026.

Bosch Rexroth is investing \$20 million in the project, which will feature automated storage and retrieval systems and is expected to bring a 50% increase in storage capacity. The building is being constructed by J.G. Petrucci Co.

Bethlehem plant manager Rafael Paredes said employees will be moved to the new warehouse and the company will maintain its 300-person workforce. It may add personnel in the future.

“This is going to bring us closer,” Paredes said. “In our type of business, we need to be very flexible and make decisions quickly. It’s going to give that ability for us to do that and also grow a state-of-the-art warehouse.”

Paredes said that parts will be readily available, rather than shipped down Route 22. That process sometimes took two or three days.

“Because we didn’t see each other, they didn’t really understand the urgency of it,” he said. “So with this, this is going to be able to have better communication between our teams and be just one team, one campus.”

Christina Franke, Bosch Rexroth executive board member for production and quality management, said the new warehouse is a continued investment in the future of operations in Bethlehem.

“For years, we have relied on a rented logistics building some miles away, which required constant shuttling of material back and forth,” she said. “Our employees have made it work, but it was far from ideal. So today, I think we turned the page.”

Streamlining operations is coming at a critical time for the German company’s U.S. branch.

“We face some headwinds, not least from the tariffs, which continue to challenge our competitiveness,” she said. “However, we also see promising opportunities. I think we are positioning ourselves here to be ready when markets accelerate.

“This building, from our point of view, is a statement that we believe in the future,” she said.

Kristin Cahayla-Hoffman, vice president of business development for Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp., said the Valley is host to 120 international companies that are part of \$7 billion of industrial economic output.

“This expansion demonstrates that the Lehigh Valley is an anchor for making and moving products,” she said.

Bosch Rexroth has been in the Lehigh Valley since 1967, when Alfred Krug opened a small office in Easton with a handful of employees who sold the company’s hydraulic systems.