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Seasons oil and vinegar parent to expand operations with new Bethlehem facility

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The 50,000-square-foot facility under construction at 1550 Spillman Drive will house Millpress Imports' olive oil blending, bottling and distribution operations for the Bethlehem-based company and its international partners. Courtesy Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc.

A family-owned olive oil importer is relocating to a larger Bethlehem facility, bringing additional jobs to the Lehigh Valley as it expands manufacturing and distribution operations.

Millpress Imports will purchase a 50,000-square-foot industrial building under construction at 1550 Spillman Drive in Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII, according to a news release from Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc. The facility will accommodate olive oil and vinegar blending, bulk storage, flavoring, bottling, packaging and distribution operations.

The company plans to retain its 22 existing employees and add 10 to 15 full-time positions over the next five years as operations expand, the release states.

The new building features 32-foot-high clearance space, high-bay storage and dedicated bulk olive oil tank infrastructure. It will serve as the U.S. operational base for Harvestline, a joint venture between Millpress and Spanish-Portuguese grower-producer partner Aceite de Oliva Iberia, S.L. The partnership creates a direct supply chain connecting growers and olive oil mills in Spain and Portugal with expanded storage and distribution capabilities in Bethlehem.

“This project is a lasting investment in both our future and the Bethlehem community,” stated Tim Balshi, CEO and president of Millpress. “Our new facility will give us the space and infrastructure to expand our manufacturing and distribution capabilities, strengthen our relationships with domestic and international supply partners, and better serve our customers throughout North America.”

Millpress has operated its current manufacturing facility at 2146 City Line Road in LVIP I since 2015. The company also operates a Seasons Olive Oil & Vinegar Taproom retail space at 508 Main St. in Historic Bethlehem.

The new facility will support the company’s sales channels including bulk ingredient, private-label and foodservice operations while enhancing service to customers throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Kerry A. Wrobel, LVIP Inc.’s president and CEO, said Millpress represents the type of small manufacturer the organization hoped to attract to LVIP VII, located along Route 412 on land reclaimed from the former Bethlehem Steel Corp.

Sage Design-Build is constructing the building’s core and shell. J.G. Petrucci Co. Inc. will complete the office fit-out.