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Innovative financing means jobs for Moline

Illinois' new financing tool backs KONE Centre project for Quad Cities

A package of creative state programs and financing tools were key to the public-private partnership that is making it possible for elevator and escalator manufacturer KONE, Inc. to build a new \$40 million headquarters in Moline. This development will retain 375 jobs and add an estimated 53 construction jobs and 50 new permanent positions. It was made possible by a combination of resources and partners, including low interest rate financing facilitated through the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) and a \$471,000 grant via the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (D-CEO). DCEO is administering the grant, provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to fund installation of a 316 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system that will help the project become LEED certified (Silver), environmentally sound and energy efficient.

These state agencies partnered with State Sen. Mike Jacobs (D-Moline), Rep. Pat Veerschoore (D-Milan) the city of Moline, Renew Moline, the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCRED), KONE Corporation, U.S. Bank and developer Rodney Blackwell.

“Projects like this are essential to long-term economic growth for the Quad Cities region and Illinois as a whole,” said Governor Pat Quinn. “This is a great example of how, by working together to continue the exciting redevelopment of the city’s downtown and Mississippi Riverfront, we can restore and recover our economy and create jobs.”

The KONE project will serve as a catalyst to rebuild the city’s core business district known as the Moline Centre, which is comprised of Moline’s downtown and Mississippi Riverfront. KONE Centre will complete Phase III of Moline’s four-phase Bass Street Landing redevelopment project which offers a venue for outdoor events, festival and gatherings along the Mississippi Riverfront.

That location is key to the project’s financing. \$20.2 million in IFA financing leverages Midwestern Disaster Area Bonds, a federal program that provides lower interest rates to finance certain types of privately-owned projects that will generate jobs and economic development activity in 18 designated counties in Illinois that suffered damage in mid-2008 from floods and other storm damage.

“Innovative financing and partnerships are the catalyst for redevelopment projects that will add jobs and expand commerce in this challenging economy,” said IFA Executive Director Christopher Meister. “We’re pleased to partner with Moline’s leadership to fulfill this vision for downtown redevelopment that is crucial to the entire Quad Cities region.”



“Partnering with the IFA makes economic sense for our communities,” said Rep. Pat Verschoore (Rock Island). “Our role as legislators is to look for innovative solutions for job creation during these tough times, and the KONE Centre is proof that success comes from creativity and hard work.”

“I look forward to seeing the KONE Centre high rise and a revitalized community on Moline’s river bank,” said Sen. Mike Jacobs (Moline). “This project ensures that KONE will remain as one of the leading manufacturers and job-creators in Moline for the foreseeable future.”

Counties eligible for Midwestern Disaster Area Bond financing are:

Adams	Cumberland	Jasper	Rock Island
Calhoun	Douglas	Jersey	Whiteside
Coles	Edgar	Lake	Winnebago
Clark	Hancock	Lawrence	
Crawford	Henderson	Mercer	

About the Illinois Finance Authority

The Illinois Finance Authority provides expert, hands-on support to help businesses get the capital they need for growth. To support Illinois businesses and the State’s economic development agenda, the IFA provides access to low-cost, non-conventional financing, through banks and other sources. IFA secures financing for farms, industries, businesses, local governments, hospitals and other non-profits. IFA’s support has helped Illinois lead the Midwest in job creation with more than 50,000 jobs added during the past year, including more than 10,000 manufacturing jobs. Illinois’ economic growth in 2010 also nearly doubled the national average. The agency is continually seeking new opportunities and invites developers, financiers and community partners to see how IFA can help. Go to www.il-fa.com to learn more.

About Illinois DCEO

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is the lead state agency responsible for improving Illinois’ competitiveness in the global economy. Guided by an innovative regional approach, DCEO administers a wide range of economic and workforce development programs, services and initiatives designed to create and retain high quality jobs and build strong communities. DCEO leads the Illinois economic development process in partnership with businesses, local governments, workers and families. For more information, visit www.ildceo.net.

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