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# POWERING

MSI General builds new U.S. manufacturing

A new manufacturing facility constructed by MSI General Contractors is taking shape in the Menomonee Valley that will add up to 275 jobs and further position Milwaukee as a center for clean energy technology.

The combined 140,000 square-foot manufacturing and office facility for Ingeteam is expected to open in May, and become fully operational later this year, says Aitor Sotes, CEO of the Bilboa, Spain-based company.

"The Ingeteam project perfectly fits the model of the clean energy economy and job creation goals that the city and state are pursuing," Sotes said.

Ingeteam's \$15 million factory is the company's first North American production operation, and will build Indar wind power generators and Ingeteam converters and solar power inverters.

When it becomes fully operational, Ingeteam plans to employ 275 people at the facility on Canal Street in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley Industrial Center. The firm chose Milwaukee for its new production facility because the city is conveniently located for distribution of products and has a solid industrial base from which Ingeteam can source materials, Sotes said.

"Milwaukee also has a labor pool experienced in electrical manufacturing," Sotes said. "In addition, the Milwaukee area boasts prestigious universities with some of the highest ranked engineering departments in the country that offer specific courses in renewable energy, which will be very useful when it comes to finding specialized staff."

There are two distinct manufacturing wings of the

building, which is designed in an L-shape. A distinctive characteristic of the pre-cast building facade is the way it curves along Canal Street, giving it a modern, contemporary flair, says Ken Krahe, director of operations for MSI General in Oconomowoc.

"I think we really succeeded in taking the site that we had, and forming the building to the curves of Canal Street," Krahe said. "Using subtle curves in the building gives it a nice architectural feature."

One wing of the factory area is 32 feet tall, while the other portion is 40 feet. The larger of the two manufacturing areas will utilize both bridge cranes and traveling jib cranes, which requires a heavy steel frame construction to support it.

The new building will have a high quantity of recycled content and regionally manufactured materials, Krahe says. The pre-cast concrete walls are manufactured by Spancrete in Waukesha, Germantown Iron & Steel fabricated the structural steel, and MSI General performed the steel erection. Local contractors include Edgerton Contractors for grading and earthwork. Spectrum Electric, Total Mechanical for the plumbing work, Bredan Mechanical is performing the HVAC work, and Freedom Fire Protection will install fire protection systems.

"It is definitely helping to stimulate the local economy," Krahe says. "This is one of the few large industrial building projects currently under construction."

The estimated economic impact is \$19 million in wages from the new jobs created by Ingeteam, and will include \$3 million in wages tied to construction jobs, according to

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# THE FUTURE

headquarters for Ingeteam, a global maker of wind power generators

the Milwaukee 7 economic development group.

Ingeteam has a Mequon office that has provided operations management and maintenance services for United States wind turbine farms since 2008. Ingeteam currently has a 12-15 percent worldwide market share of wind power components.

With 28 companies on four continents and a total of 3,500 employees, Ingeteam has identified the U.S. as a growth market for wind energy. The Milwaukee manufacturing operation will supply the North American market.

At full capacity, the Milwaukee plant will supply equipment capable of producing 7,500 megawatts (MW) of electricity each year. The Milwaukee plant will produce generators and converters for 1.5 MW to 5 MW wind turbines, and solar power inverters that range from 2.5 kilowatt (kW) units for residential use up to 500 kW units for utility-scale installations. Later, Ingeteam plans to add a facility for system testing.

In addition, the new plant is expected to produce motors, generators and converters for the other markets in which the company is active - railway, marine, combined heat and power generation, hydraulic equipment and the iron and steel industry.

As the design-builder of the Ingeteam building, MSI General is the architect, engineer and contractor of the facility. The building is being constructed to LEED certification standards, which are submitted for approval to the U.S. Green Building Council (for more information on MSI General go to [www.msigeneral.com](http://www.msigeneral.com)).



"MSI is a very capable and professional company that not only had and has a fantastic reputation in Wisconsin, but also has extensive experience building in the Menomonee Valley," Sotes said. "They presented us with a project that fit very well with the ideas that we had for our first manufacturing facility in the US."  
— By John Rondy

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