

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER



News Alert

For Immediate Release

SW Michigan Packager Defined by the Quality of Its Contents Not Its Size

Grand Rapids, Michigan – October 7, 2014 – You may be fooled when you drive through the Village of Vandalia, a small rural town in Southwest Michigan. It's small in size but there's a hidden gem within its one square mile radius. Providing employment and economic growth to the area since 2009, Tri Pac, Inc. continues to grow at an average rate of 30% a year. This year alone the world-class packaging company received ISO 9001:2008 certification and expanded its state of the art facility to include two aerosol lines with the capacity of producing over 16 million units annually.



TRI PAC INC®
CONTRACT FILLING & PACKAGING



Tri Pac is a turn-key contract packager that offers manufacturing, labeling, and distribution services of branded products and retailer brands. Locally owned and operated by a team with over 150 years of combined experience in the industry, the company manufactures aerosol and liquid consumer goods; for industries including, household, automotive, sporting and outdoor goods, industrial, institutional, and defense.

“We add value to the supply chain,” said Vikram Shah, President of Tri Pac, Inc. “Our services and products allow marketers to focus on building their brand value while we handle the packaging and distribution for them.”

In the midst of looking for employment after being a casualty of a company acquisition/downsize in Elkhart (Indiana), Shah found an opportunity to use his proven track record in solving customers' packaging needs to launch Tri Pac. With a client already lined up and limited resources, he found the ideal home for the company in an empty building in Vandalia and began utilizing the available services for small businesses across the state.

“I decided Michigan was the better place to locate as there were more resources available,” shared Shah. “Connecting with the SBDC was like having my own one-stop business center.”

From start up through every growth spurt, Shah has been working with the team of business consultants at the Southwest Michigan Region of the Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The business specialists at the SBDC have provided Shah with general business management and marketing support, operational and growth strategy services, connections to funding resources and support with loan applications, guidance on becoming a certified minority-owned business, and assistance with the regulatory process for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

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Page 2 ... SW Michigan Packager Defined by the Quality of Its Contents Not Its Size

“John and the consultants at the SBDC are a dynamic group to work with,” stated Shah. “They are dedicated to matching you with the right resources to help you succeed.”

John Schmitt, Senior Business Consultant for SBDC Southwest Region is the lead consultant for Shah and his team at Tri Pac. Melissa Angel, Associate Business Growth Team Manager, at the SBDC assisted with the minority certification. In 2011, Tri Pac was honored as one of the Michigan 50 Companies to Watch and as the 2010 Best Small Business for the SBDC Southwest Region.

Shah has also received tremendous support from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC) of Michigan, Pure Michigan Business Connect, and Cass County Economic Development Corporation. He has also been invited to join the White House Business Council and Business Forward to weigh in on how Federal manufacturing policies affect businesses such as Tri Pac.

Tri Pac, Inc. is an innovation and customer-focused contract packager that offers aerosol and liquid blending, manufacturing, labeling, and distribution services of branded products and retailer brands. To learn more about Tri Pac, contact Vikram Shah at (269) 476-2303 or visit the company's Web site at www.tri-pac.us.

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About the Michigan SBDC

The Michigan Small Business Development Center (Michigan SBDC) provides counseling, business education, information-based planning and technology commercialization to new and existing businesses throughout Michigan's 83 counties.

The Michigan SBDC is located at the Grand Valley State University, Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As host of the Michigan SBDC State Headquarters, the Seidman College of Business oversees the 11-region Michigan SBDC network. Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting www.sbdcmichigan.org.