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### Company bringing 70 jobs to RC

By Julie Peacock/Richmond County Daily Journal  
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Some 70 jobs are coming to Richmond, county commissioners announced Monday.

APG-Meridian will open a plant here by the end of this year, said Rick Sago, director of Richmond County Economic Development. The 70 jobs will be created over the next three years.

The expected average wage of the new jobs is \$478 plus benefits. The average wage in Richmond County is \$463 without benefits.

APG-Meridian has a facility in Florida and has decided to expand here.

"After entertaining offers from several other states, we chose Richmond County for our expansion," said Sam Kafin, APG-Meridian chairman. "The business-friendly atmosphere, quality of life and proximity to other major markets all played a role in our decision."



The company, which manufactures aluminum fences, gates and railings, will begin construction this fall in the former Stanley-Bostich building in Hamlet.

"We are happy that APG Meridian chose Richmond County over several other locations in the country," Commissioner H.L. Webb said. "We look forward to being a part of their continued growth."

Skilled manufacturing positions and positions in the distribution portion of the plant will be available.

Jim Chavis, vice [resident of continuing education at Richmond Community College, said RCC will help with employee training. He said RCC might set up pre-employment classes to help APG-Meridian find the best applicants.

Until APG-Meridian decides what positions will be available, RCC will meet with them and decide which courses might be most beneficial for future employees.

"During the conversations with APG-Meridian, I have gotten to know and respect Steve Kafin, and I want to thank Steve and his family for choosing to do business in Richmond County," County Manager Jim Haynes said.

The company is relocating with the assistance of a \$60,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant. The ONCF helps local communities attract businesses by providing financial assistance. The county was required to match the funds.

"We are very happy to welcome APG-Meridian to Hamlet," Mayor Cary Garner said. "APG-Meridian will be an asset to Richmond County and more importantly as the job base continues to expand, it continues to diversify."

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