

Laticrete plans expansion here

Tom MacCallum/Richmond County Daily Journal

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Richmond County will give **Laticrete** International Inc., an incentive to add a second \$1.8 million production line at its new plant. County commissioners voted Monday night to give a five-year 50 percent incentive grant on property taxes to **Laticrete** for its new **expansion**. Rick Sago, director of development, said the new line will add eight new jobs.

Since legislation allowing incentive packages was passed in 1997, Sago said the program has helped several industries in the county.

Laticrete's North American Division president Ed Metcalf said at the grand opening of the plant in the Richmond County Industrial Park in 2005 "We're going to take some of this extra land and expand. That's our goal."

At its opening, the 75,000 square-foot plant was employing 15 people. It had plans to eventually hire 75 people.

The plant represents a \$10 million investment to which will be added the new \$1.8 million production line.

The facility produces thinset mortar and grout. The mortar is what holds tile to the floor and grout goes between the tile.

In the beginning, two-thirds of the space was to be used for shipping space.

Ron Munnerlyn, plant manager, said when the plant opened that it was built to grow.

Sago said since opening, **Laticrete** has been successful in growing its customer base and increasing its commitment to Richmond County.