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TechniGraphic - kitchen table to major industry

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WOOSTER - In 1993, Dee and Mary Vaidya started TechniGraphic Systems Inc. at their kitchen table with \$5,000.

Since then, the digital-mapping software company has grown to employ more than 150 people in three locations, and on Thursday night the pair broke ground along with company director David Noble on a 28,000-square-foot, two-story building that will serve as the company's headquarters.

Noble recalled the story of how his father, Don Noble, had partnered with the Vaidyas to help launch the company. He said his father felt it was a "high-risk venture," but proceeded because he liked the Vaidyas.

Don Noble, a former Rubbermaid president and chief executive officer, died in July 2002, and David Noble was visibly saddened as he spoke of the recent removal of Rubbermaid's sign along the company's former headquarters along Akron Road in Wooster.

"We're going to take Rubbermaid's place," David Noble said.

The new building will be located at 2000 Noble Drive, a street named in honor of Don Noble. Alice Noble was on hand to unveil the new street sign.

"Noble Drive is a fitting name because Don had drive. A drive for growth, and he inspired us to grow," said CEO and principal owner Dee Vaidya.

Dee Vaidya said Don Noble's contribution to TGS was vital to the company's success.

"He was much more than an investor. We got the benefit of Don's years and experience in business, and he was really a mentor to Mary and Me," Dee Vaidya said.

TGS has committed 30 acres, located on the south side of Back Orrville Road, between the city's corporation line and Geyers Chapel Road, as a new technology park.

"Our vision is to build in this community and grow in this community," said Dee Vaidya. "We want to give back to this community."

TGS plans to bring in 300 jobs after its expansion.

The building was designed and will be constructed by Bogner Construction Management Co.

"It's in a prairie style, with different roof levels with a lot of windows that allow natural light in," Ted Bogner said.

Construction is set to begin in early November, according to Bogner.