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## Celebrating a milestone

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WOOSTER - TechniGraphics unveiled its new 28,000-square-foot, two-story headquarters Monday, sharing its vision of growth with hundreds of attendees.

Located at 2000 Noble Drive, just off Back Orrville Road, the facility is designed to hold nearly 300 employees. It features three production rooms on its ground floor, which can house 180 people per shift. A more secure room, which holds 65 people per shift, is located on the second floor and is used to conduct work for the United States Departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

An employee lounge holds dining tables, chairs, couches and a Ping-Pong table.

Al Miller, corporate director of development, first addressed the group, recognizing the importance of the evening.

"This is a great night for all of us ... helping us celebrate a milestone in the company's history," said Miller.

The digital mapping software company's expansion will allow it to nearly triple its current work force of about 100 people.

Miller said such advancements don't happen "without community, county and state help," before introducing Joanne Isham, deputy director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, an agency of the Department of Defense that manages and provides imagery and geospatial information for military, civil, and international needs.

Isham said her agency is "proud to be associated with an industry leader," calling TechniGraphics a "valued collaborator and critical resource."

According to Isham, the company has "revolutionized the way people access information of the geospatial manner."

Dee Vaidya, chief executive officer and owner of TechniGraphics, reminisced about the company's beginnings in the kitchen of his family's home, and the support of Don Noble, his former partner and former chief executive officer of Rubbermaid, who died three years ago.

The street on which the headquarters is located is named after him, and Alice Noble, his wife, was in attendance.

“This is a landmark in our company’s history,” said Vaidya of the new facility, which according to him, “became necessary because of its rapid growth - We ran out of room.”

The old facilities, which were located on Gateway Drive and Commerce Parkway, were filled to capacity with about 90 employees.

“We wanted to do more and just didn’t have the space,” said Vaidya.

Vaidya said after the company selected its 60-acre plot of land, located next to 27 acres now owned by the Noble Foundation, the “city and state came through with flying colors,” providing 25 to 30 percent of the entire project cost,” which is estimated at \$6 million.

He said “job growth and a desire to promote technology-based business” drove this support.

The project was “on time and on budget,” according to Vaidya, because of Ted Bogner of Bogner Construction Management Company.

Vaidya said his wife, company vice president Mary Vaidya, also contributed to the successful completion of the building, by serving as building project manager.

According to Vaidya, the area around TechniGraphics will develop into a campus, with multi-family housing, a wooded park area and public amenities, such as a library.

Bogner said he is pleased with the facility, the construction of which he managed.

“I feel good, because the people inside it feel good. That’s one of the things everyone was very cognizant of - that the building felt good and it was good to be in,” said Bogner.

City of Wooster director of administration Mike Sigg said collaborative efforts from city, state and national levels paid off, resulting in TechniGraphic’s new facility, and possible future economic growth.

“It’s a great facility. Its growth not only sets the stage for this company, but I have no doubt we will see other developments out here in the very near future,” said Sigg.