

BLACKMAN

Plant might bring 90 jobs

By Pat Rombyer

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A worldwide manufacturer of broadband and networking products is slated to open a facility in Blackman Township that may employ up to 90 workers by the end of 2007.

Gilbert, Ariz.-based PCT International announced it will start production at the facility at 3530 Wayland Drive in about 90 days.

Plant Manager Darren Youtsey said the company would employ 20 to 30 skilled and light-assembly workers initially, but that is expected to grow to 75 to 90 workers over the next year.

The Blackman Township Board welcomed the company Tuesday by designating the property an Industrial Development District. The designation paves the way for future tax breaks, township officials said.

The property was once owned by Quick Plastics. It has been vacant in recent years.

Township Supervisor Ray Snell said he and Steve Czarnecki, president and CEO of The Enterprise Group, have been working on the deal for about a year.

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The company will invest about \$1 million in renovations and equipment, said Youtsey, whose older brother Steve founded the company in 1997.

PCT International has suppliers and distribution warehouses worldwide.

According to its Web site, it has led the cable television industry "in a number of areas by emphasizing innovation and development of a vast

manufacturing and logistics operation in Asia."

"We cater to the big cable providers," Youtsey said.

The township board also received other good news Tuesday. TRW, which closed its Jackson facility in July, repaid \$68,000 of a tax exemption granted earlier as an incentive to remain in the township.

The city of Jackson learned earlier this summer that TRW would repay it \$135,000 for tax breaks.