

New jobs? Yes, indeed

We're pleased to note that Blackman Township is welcoming a new manufacturer to Jackson County. Since it isn't often that a growing company with a global presence opens up shop in Jackson County, this one deserves some notice.

PCT International Inc., established in 1997 in Gilbert, Ariz., plans to start production in about three months at 3530 Wayland Drive on the former Quick Plastics property. Initially, the company will employ 20 to 30 people, but expects to have as many as 90 employees over the next year.

The company uses skilled and light-assembly workers in the production of broadband and networking products. With about 1,000 employees based at facilities in 10 nations — including China — PCT may not be a huge employer. It is, however, the kind of company that is in the forefront of the global economy. Typically, Americans view China as an outsourcing threat

to U.S. jobs. But if that were the case, why would a small company with several Asian facilities be locating one in Jackson, Mich., and creating new jobs here?

Perhaps the answer is that a global economy does not merely take jobs away from the United States; it also creates jobs.

We extend our congratulations to officials with Blackman Township and the Enterprise Group, who worked for a year on the PCT deal. Also, let's not forget the taxpayers, whose help was instrumental in getting the company started here — that is, with some advantageous tax incentives.

This is how the local economy grows — a few jobs at a time, filling a product niche here and there, and taking a strategic place in the global economy.

— Jackson Citizen Patriot

Thursday: Allen School plan