

Richland Glass to stay, expand in Vineland

Anthony V. Coppola, - Aug. 1, 2017



VINELAND - Jack Carson's preference all along was to remain in Vineland.

Carson, the president of Richland Glass on South West Boulevard, had the option of relocating to a new facility in Philadelphia or Delaware at lesser costs.

"There are different advantages to different areas," Carson told The Daily Journal.

But thanks to the Grow NJ program administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, staying put ultimately made the most sense for Richland Glass. The program will grant the company \$2,283,470 in tax credits over 10 years, allowing Richland Glass to upgrade equipment and renovate its 87,266 square-foot facility.



Engineer Brian Harris works inside Richland Glas

With the award, eight new employment opportunities will be created while 101 workers at Richland Glass retain their jobs.

"This program gave us the incentive to further invest in the local area and it's a good way to keep our company more competitive," Carson said.

Staying on the cutting edge is important to Carson, who noted the manufacturing industry can be challenging in the United States.

The Grow NJ award will help Richland Glass update its infrastructure, machinery, lighting and electrical systems.

The company designs and produces glass and quartz components and assemblies glass and quartz components and assemblies for several markets, including electronics, lighting, medical/diagnostic



and industrial. International clients account for 25 percent of Richland's sales, according to Carson.

The company got its start in Richland, Buena Vista Township, in 1960 before moving to Vineland around 2001.

The city has been a good home for Richland Glass,

Stacks of vial tubing reflects flames from a machine inside Richland Glass

Carson said. "Glass working is a bit of an inherit skill in and around Vineland," Carson said. "That helps in terms of hiring talented people."

Richland's Grow NJ application shows a planned investment of almost \$1.8 million for an expansion expected to be completed by June 1, 2018.

Carson said "mature technology" has helped Richland be successful, and the company will continue to look for ways to increase efficiency. Investing in robotics was one example he gave.

"Whatever can help make a better product without raising the cost," Carson said.

Carson did not overlook the importance of keeping jobs in Vineland.

The Richland Glass facility borders the Progresso plant, which is slated to shut down this month. Progresso employed more than 300 people when the closure announcement was made.

"Job loss causes pain and you don't like to see that," Carson said. "We're not looking to upset the apple cart. I have a good work force and hopefully we hire a few more good people here."