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## VT Industries to Expand Rome-Based Services, Add Jobs

**V**T Industries of Georgia, Inc., the world's largest supplier of kitchen countertops, has announced it will expand the line of products produced at its plant in Rome, Ga., a move that will result in a five million dollar investment in the facility and the addition of approximately 20 jobs in the community.

VT Industries, which previously expanded in Rome in 2000 when it moved into its current 318,000-square-foot Redmond Circle facility, will produce engineered stone products made from quartz slabs in addition to the laminate countertops that are already manufactured here.

Rome's VT Industries facility will be the first of the company's locations to add quartz countertop production. The Rome plant is the largest of VT Industries' seven facilities located across the United States and Canada.

Since moving to the Redmond Circle address, the Rome plant has experienced double digit sales growth each year.

"We love Rome," said local VT Industries General Manager **Jack Bartlett**. "We have had great success here and look forward to continuing our partnership with this great community."

The *Rome-Floyd County Development Authority* recently passed a resolution endorsing a Payment in Lieu of Tax plan for VT Industries for the next five years. A good corporate citizen, the company has agreed to pay a graduating portion of school taxes.

"This is another indication that companies in Rome have the same



commitment to education as that of our citizens," said *Rome Mayor Ronnie Wallace (LR'87)*. "That is a great win-win situation for VT Industries and the City of Rome."

*Floyd County Commission Chairman Dr. Jerry Jennings (LR'87)* and *Rome-Floyd County Development Authority Chairman Evie McNiece (LR'02)* each said that VT Industries' expansion is an endorsement of the local workforce and business community.

"The fact that VT Industries chose Rome as the first location for this new production line speaks very highly of our labor force," Jennings said. "This proves that there are trained, skilled workers in this community who will be able to run the highly technical, computerized machinery used in the production process for VT Industries."

"It is always wonderful news when one of our existing employers decides to expand locally, especially when it's someone like VT Industries," McNiece

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