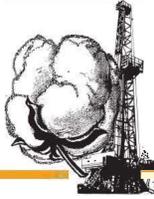


Lamesa Press Reporter



MODULAR BUILDER COMMITS TO LAMESA

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RUSSEL SKILES LAMESA PRESS-REPORTER

Lamesa has been chosen as the site for a \$20-million modular home manufacturing facility planned by McKinney-based TatumTek, LLC.

That announcement came after company officials met with Lamesa Economic Development leaders here Monday evening.

"Words can't express how honored I am to bring TatumTek to Lamesa, Texas," Edwin Tatum, founder and chief executive officer of TatumTek Modular, said in a written statement on Tuesday.

"I speak on behalf of the entire team that we are excited and can't wait to become a part of the community," he added.

Sean Overeynder, director of Lamesa Economic Development, said a timetable for the project has not been finalized but he expects it to move fairly quickly.

"They are working on the pre-development phase because they want to get moving immediately," Overeynder told the Press-Reporter. "Time is of the essence for them."

The announcement comes just one week after the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) approved a \$300,000 incentive proposal for the company.

Overeynder, however, said he has been working on the effort for several months.

"A lot of hard work has gone into this," he said.

In addition to a \$20-million capital investment, Overeynder said, the company expects to create about 150 jobs with wages ranging from \$18 to \$30 per hour.

"The multiplier effect of those jobs is phenomenal," LEDC President Scott Leonard said, referring to the economic impact of employees spending money in Lamesa.

Leonard said Lamesa also will benefit from ad valorem property taxes paid by the company and the sales taxes that are generated.

Officials had said last week that Lamesa was one of three locations being considered for the facility - the other two being in the Houston area and Missouri.

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*Edwin
TatumTek Modular CEO*

Tatum

"Outside of the obvious logistical and labor benefits, the people I've spoken to made this a relatively easy decision," Tatum said.

"Sean and the board did a first class job making sure Lamesa residents were protected with this investment, and we wouldn't have it any other way."

Overeynder said a number of stipulations, including consequences for failure to perform, are included in the incentive offer made to TatumTek.

"The \$300,000 that they're getting is based on a very stringent 12-year agreement," he said.

The agreement does not include any property tax abatements, Overeynder said, with a site of about 52 acres expected to be annexed into the Lamesa city limits.

While a number of factors certainly went into Tatum-Tek's decision to locate in Lamesa, Overeynder said the cost of land and labor are always big factors.

"Hands down, we've got both of those in our favor," Overeynder, adding that Lamesa's location was also an advantage.

"They've got a very large customer base in the Panhandle, South Plains and Permian Basin that will keep them busy," he said.

Lamesa also is located on a network of highways that provide easy access not only across this region but to more distant locations in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado as well.

"We've got the logistical infrastructure to meet their needs," Overeynder said.

Lamesa and the entire region also should benefit from having a modular housing manufacturer here.

"There is a major housing crisis in West Texas," Overeynder said.

TatumTek can help ease that crisis, he said, by providing new housing both faster and at a lower price than standard construction methods.

"They can build a house in 10 weeks from the time the plans are turned in until they hand over the keys," Overeynder said.

Overeynder said Tatum-Tek's decision to locate here is a "double win" for Lamesa because it not only provides jobs and other benefits but could help resolve the housing crisis that Lamesa has faced for a number of years.

Leonard agreed, stating, "It does kill two birds with one stone."

The modular construction method can be used not only for single-family homes but also multi-family homes, town homes, senior living facilities, and hotel/motels.

"Our goal in the immediate is finalizing the predevelopment process to begin factory construction on our site," Tatum said. "This enables us to quickly serve Lamesa, the West Texas region, and ultimately the entire state with best in class products and services."

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