

Tennessean.

WILSON

Permobil to expand, add to industrial momentum in Wilson County: See where thousands of jobs are coming



Andy Humbles

Nashville Tennessean

Published 9:50 a.m. CT March 28, 2022 | Updated 4:43 a.m. CT March 29, 2022

Permobil has announced a 70,000-square-foot expansion to its Lebanon facility, which is expected to create 70 new jobs over the next five years.

The company's \$15 million investment to its location on Duke Drive will increase manufacturing operations, according to Permobil.

Permobil makes custom power and manual wheelchairs and other products that help disabled persons. Permobil now has about 240 employees at its Lebanon facility that is now about 113,000 square feet.

The expansion is expected to be finished this summer, according to a Permobil spokesperson.

Wilson County has had an uptick in manufacturing projects that include solar, electric vehicle components, food and medical industries, Joint Economic and Community Development Board of Wilson County Director G.C. Hixson said.

"One of our area's advantages is that our development partners are now constructing smaller structures," Hixson said. "These 100,000-250,000 (square foot) stand-alone buildings lend themselves to the size and types of today's and tomorrow's clients considering Middle Tennessee."

Among companies announcing intent to open operations recently in Wilson County include:

Tritium: The company that creates technology to build DC fast chargers for electric vehicles, announced in February plans to open a manufacturing facility at the former Toshiba space in Lebanon. The facility is expected to create up to 500 jobs in the next five years.

Sunrise Medical: A manual and powered wheelchair manufacturer has a new 134,640-square-foot North America manufacturing facility at Beckwith Farms in Mt. Juliet. The goal is to build up to more than 100 employees during 2023, according to the company.

Walmart: Announced plans to build a 925,000-square-foot automated fulfillment center that is projected to open in the fall on Hixson Boulevard in Lebanon and create 300 jobs.

Thermo Fisher Scientific: To open a new technology assembly facility at Speedway Industrial Park this year and ultimately create 1,400 jobs. GEODIS, FedEx, Amazon and Cold Chain Technologies are among other tenants at Speedway Industrial Park.

New jobs: Walmart to open fulfillment center in Lebanon; to create 300 jobs

New REI facility: Washington-based outdoor retailer REI to bring 280 jobs with new Lebanon facility

Labor shortage: Automakers struggle to hire, keep workers — with some quitting by lunch

Amazon: A new fulfillment center open in Mt. Juliet is expected to eventually bring more than 1,000 full-time jobs and eventually 3,000 jobs overall.

Al. Neyer: Two new industrial buildings for future users that total 411,150 square feet are planned for a 38-acre site in Lebanon near the intersection of Murfreesboro Road and Allgood Way.

REI (Recreation Equipment, Inc.): To construct its fourth distribution center in Lebanon. The specialty outdoor retailer will create more than 280 jobs for its 400,000-square-foot facility and has an operation date of fall 2023.

Nashville Box: The corrugated box and products manufacturer has a 100,000-square-foot facility on Eastgate Boulevard, with 48 workers expected.

Chewy: A pet products company will establish a new regional e-commerce fulfillment center in off Interstate 840 on Couchville Pike projected to create up to 1,200 jobs. Expectations are to be fully operational in late 2022.

National Indoor RV Centers: To construct a new 189,350-square-foot facility in Lebanon on Old Murfreesboro Road. The new facility will be for RV storage, service, sales and total operations of RV ownership. To open in late 2022 or early 2023.

The Lebanon City Council approved a land-use amendment in March that enables Prologis to move forward on a plan that could surpass 2 million square feet of warehouse space in

Franklin Road near State Route 109 and Interstate 840.

Lebanon councilors also approved to rezone and annex about 91 acres on Central Pike near Interstate 840 for a future project proposed by Stream Realty expected to lead to more than 1 million square feet of warehouse space.

Reach Andy Humbles at ahumbles@tennessean.com or 615-726-5939 and on Twitter @AndyHumbles.