

USDA Rural Development Assists in Business Expansion Project

Outline Of Need: DANKO Emergency Equipment Co., based in Snyder, Nebraska, has manufactured and marketed equipment in the fire emergency and protection industry since 1974. DANKO has an exclusive five-state territory, and builds vehicles that are in use throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. Being a prospering business, DANKO'S growth was outpacing the production capabilities of the existing 12,000 square foot plant. Surrounded on all sides, the physical expansion of the plant was not an option.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) funds of \$250,000 were awarded to Great Plains Communications, Inc., who in turn disbursed the funds to DANKO Emergency Equipment Company. Additional financing was received from State (Community Development Block Grant) funds, a local bank loan, Economic Development Administration revolving loan fund dollars, ultimate recipient equity and an USDA Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program Ultimate Recipient loan of \$49,000. The \$1.3 million allowed for land acquisition, construction of a manufacturing and office facility and new equipment.

The Results: The new 33,000 square feet building has allowed DANKO to dramatically increase its production volume capabilities while, at the same time, reduce both per unit production time and per unit production costs. The expansion project benefited the rural community of 318 residents by adding 20 new full-time employees and creating advancement opportunities for 26 existing employees.

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Groundbreaking for new DANKO facility.