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Westgate Home Furnishings to locate first U.S. manufacturing facility in Alexander County

Alexander County now has a new furniture manufacturer with the Oct. 6 announcement that Westgate Home Furnishings will locate its first manufacturing facility in Alexander County.

Westgate will occupy an existing facility with 43,000 square feet of space located on Hwy. 16 south about one mile from the intersection of U.S. 64. The site is the former location of Fashion House Furniture.

The company will create at least 30 new jobs with a goal of 70 new jobs by the end of 2009. Based on the job creation, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center has awarded the Westgate Project \$300,000 from the Building Reuse and Restoration Grant Program. These funds are reserved by the Rural Center strictly for use in renovating existing buildings which have been empty for at least six months. This grant also requires an equal match by Westgate, resulting in a total renovation project of approximately \$600,000.

A manufacturer of medium to upper medium priced upholstered furniture marketing to the home furnishings trade, Westgate Home Furnishings utilizes a blended manufacturing strategy incorporating plants in both China and the United States. Westgate Home Furnishings occupies a unique position in the furniture market as a vertical upholstered furniture supplier providing furniture retailers with an upholstered solution that eliminates converters and sourcing agents thus enhancing their logistics, value proposition and profit margins.

Westgate Home Furnishings is a division of parent company Home Fashions International (HFI). A privately owned business, celebrating 20 years in business in 2008, HFI manufactures and markets products to the home fashions trade through the brands: Home Fashions International, American Decorative Fabrics, and Westgate Home Furnishings. HFI operates 11 manufacturing facilities and employs some 3,000 persons worldwide.