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CONTACT  
Kola Ogunshote, 773-739-3474  
[kola@macstrategiesgroup.com](mailto:kola@macstrategiesgroup.com)

## Tek Pak Expands Operations with New State-Of-The-Art Training Center and Inventory Facility in St. Charles

**ST. CHARLES, IL** – As part of its ongoing corporate growth and expansion program, Tek Pak Inc., a global manufacturing and packaging solutions company located in the Fox Valley region celebrated on Wednesday the grand opening of its new state of the art training center and inventory facility in St. Charles. The new location will provide expanded space for additional workforce development training and will also allow the company to centralize its shipping, receiving and storage of materials.

The new state-of-the-art training center includes a classroom area and training floor where employees will get both academic and practical hands-on training experience on actual machinery specific to the packaging industry, including Kiefel machines which are used in the thermoforming process, as well as carrier tape machines used in the manufacturing of packaging for electronic components including microchips and semiconductors. Located on 23,658 square-feet of space on 392 38th Street in St. Charles, the building will be managed by BEI Commercial Real Estate, a local commercial, brokerage and real estate management company serving customers in the Fox Valley region for over 60 years.

“We celebrated our 30th anniversary this year and are strategically reinvesting in our operations and workforce to ensure future growth for years to come,” said **Tony Beyer, President and CEO of Tek Pak**. “Tek Pak has reinvested over \$2.5 million this year with the purchase of two Kiefel and carrier tape machines essential for our thermoforming operations, which have increased our production capacity by 40 percent. This new building gives us the needed space to boost the training and upskilling of our employees, while also increasing our capacity to meet our growing product demand.”

“Tek Pak has been in our community for 30 years and we’re delighted to see them continue to grow,” said **Lora Vitek, Mayor of the City of St. Charles**. “Tek Pak is a great example of business leadership, not only expanding its local economic impact, but also giving back to the community. We’re excited to see their continued expansion in the St. Charles community and the additional job opportunities it brings to the City. We appreciate them choosing to have their business in St. Charles.”

Tek Pak currently employs 121 people across our three facilities in Chicago, Batavia and St. Charles and is looking to hire 12-18 more workers before the end of the year. Many of the positions are highly skilled jobs requiring the capability to navigate instruments and machining operations specific to the plastics and thermoform industry. The company launched its new internal apprenticeship program this spring to help train workers on the machinery used in the thermoforming process. While many educational programs provide great classroom training, Tek Pak is committed to combining that learning with hands-on application to the machines on its shop room floor. There are 15-16 different types of machinery that employees are apprenticed and cross-trained on, helping them improve their skills and increase their earning potential as additional certifications are added.

“Employee training and apprenticeship programs open up incredible new opportunities in the manufacturing sector, even for those without previous technical experience,” said **Debbie Gurley, Interim Executive Director, St. Charles Area Chamber of Commerce**. “Manufacturing plays a significant role in the local Fox Valley region’s economy. As the primary business resource and partner to businesses in the community, we are happy to join Tek Pak to celebrate its expansion and this notable investment in employee training and development.”

Tek Pak was awarded an Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) grant in October from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administered by the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association (IMA). The company has directed funds from the grant towards employee training and education in safety, quality control, ERP systems and further expansion of its apprentice program.

### About Tek Pak, Inc.

Tek Pak, Inc. is a global manufacturing company providing light gauge thermoform, molded fiber and packaging solutions for electronic, food, healthcare and industrial customers from design concept through prototype and production. Headquartered in Batavia, Illinois, Tek Pak remains a closely held private corporation with three facilities in the western suburbs of Chicago, Batavia and St. Charles. The company provides the most comprehensive, high quality and fastest thermoforming development in the world. For more information, please visit <https://www.tekpak.com>.

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