



Custom Blending employee Janie Smith, right, pours jars of coriander, Feb. 18, 2003, as co-worker, Patsy Ortiz, left, finishes packing jars of black pepper. In the background is co-worker, Erick Wolsey, getting boxes ready for packing.

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Custom Blending hopes to move from Link Lane

MARCH 23, 2008
By Coloradoan staff

Custom Blending, the maker of Rodelle Vanilla and other custom spices, hopes to be the first manufacturer to break ground in the new Harmony Technology Park south of Hewlett-Packard.

The company's plans to move from Link Lane must go through a city administrative hearing Tuesday.

Thus far, plans call for a 35,000-square-foot building divided into office and light industrial with room to expand to 50,000 square feet.

Interested?

Custom Blending plans to build a 35,000-square-foot building at Harmony Technology Park will go through a city administrative hearing at 5 p.m. Tuesday in conference room A at 281 N. College Ave.

The current 13,000-square-foot manufacturing facility on Link Lane is "landlocked" and "out of room," said John Conway, who founded Custom

Blending in Fort Collins in 1984.

Though plans are awaiting final city approval, Custom Blending would be the first local company to get the go-ahead to move into the Harmony Technology Park being developed by MAV Development off Harmony Road.

Custom Blending went through the city's conceptual review process in December.

Initial drawings, developed by Aller-Lingle Architects, show the plant on the back portion of the 110 acres across from Hewlett-Packard.

MAV Development of Ann

Arbor, Mich., is developing the park with commercial, office and technology space.

President Rob Aldrich said in October the company would break ground early this year on an 80,000-square-foot spec building.

Custom Blending now leases additional space for storage of finished inventory but would like to bring all operations under one roof, Conway said.

The company sells vanilla extract and beans throughout the country, including locally at Safeway, King Soopers, Wal-Mart and other grocery stores.