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## Plexus Corp. headquarters building takes shape in downtown Neenah

\$20 million headquarters to be completed in May

BY DUKE BEHNKE • POST-CRESCENT STAFF WRITER • NOVEMBER 8, 2009

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NEENAH — On any given day, about 60 workers in hard hats buzz around the Plexus Corp. construction site in downtown Neenah.

They use backhoes, cranes and lifts to transform the former Glatfelter paper mill site into Plexus' \$20 million global headquarters.

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The four-story, 103,000-square-foot building is on pace for completion in May and occupancy in June. It will bring together 350 Plexus employees from five company buildings in the Neenah area to improve efficiencies and [productivity](#).

The vibrancy that characterizes the construction site is not likely to disappear once the employees arrive. The building has ample common areas, including an open staircase connecting all floors, to encourage interaction.

"It's designed to be a lively building," said Ginger Jones, Plexus' vice president and chief [financial](#) officer. "It will have sound. It's not going to be a quiet insurance agency. We are excited about it."

So, too, are city leaders.

Bob Buckingham, executive director of Future Neenah, said the rise of the Plexus headquarters has generated a heightened sense of opportunity for the downtown business community.

"There has been a synergy created around this new, major employer bringing its [corporate headquarters](#) into this district," Buckingham said.



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Miron Construction workers Derrick Marshall (left) and Rick Davis build brick columns Tuesday on the new Plexus Corp. headquarters on Wisconsin Avenue in Neenah. The four-story, 103,000-square-foot building is on pace for completion in May and occupancy in June. (Post-Crescent photo by Patrick Ferron)

### AT A GLANCE

Company: Plexus Corp., a contract manufacturer of complex electronic products  
 Founded: 1979  
 Headquarters: Neenah  
 Locations: United States (Wisconsin, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois and North Carolina), China, Malaysia, Mexico, Romania and Scotland  
 Employment: 1,900 in the Fox Cities and 7,100 worldwide  
 Annual sales: \$1.6 billion  
 Customers: Juniper Networks, General Electric Corp., Siemens and Honeywell

The south side of Plexus' chevron-shaped building will look like a renovated turn-of-the-century industrial building to complement Neenah's historic downtown. The north side of the building overlooking the water will have exposed steel and glass for a more modern look reflective of a high-tech company.

The building will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards.

It features bands of clear and tinted glass to capture daylight and reduce the need for artificial lighting. Offices are located in the center of the building, and the open areas for cubicles are located on the perimeter.

"The people in cubicles get the most natural light and the best views," Jones said. "We don't waste that light and view on just a few people in offices."

Plexus officials explored the possibility of using water that is piped under the building for hydroelectric power, but that did not prove feasible.

Neenah acquired the Glatfelter mill last year and budgeted \$7.9 million for demolition, environmental remediation, utility relocation and site preparation. The master plan for the Glatfelter campus calls for a mix of office, retail, dining, entertainment and residential uses.

The city plans to recoup its [investment](#) through a tax incremental financing district, which allows it to use gross property tax revenues from new development to pay for improvements.

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