

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAGE PRODUCTS OPENS NEW GAGE INNOVATION CENTER LABORATORIES

FERNDALE, Mich., Oct. 15 – Gage Products, an industry leader in automotive paint systems, solvents and fuels, today officially opened a new multi-million-dollar Gage Innovation Center at the company’s 12-acre headquarters campus in Ferndale.

Community leaders along with a number of state and local officials took part in grand opening ceremonies for the new facility, which will house research-and-development, quality control and customer service laboratories.

“The new Gage Innovation Center underlines our ongoing commitment to customer service, innovative product development and continued growth,” said Dan Finkiewicz, chairman and president of Gage Products. “It also will lead to up to 10 to 15 new jobs over the next several years.”



Quality Control Manager Veronica Akers gathers test data at the new Gage Innovation Center.

He added that the company has invested more than \$3 million in the new 5,000-square-foot facility, which nearly doubles laboratory space previously housed in two separate buildings at Gage’s Ferndale headquarters.

Gage Innovation Center Director Bob Patzelt noted that laboratory “bench space” devoted to quality control and R&D work as well as storage capacity for customer-product test samples will more than double.

More than a dozen technicians and scientists work in Gage’s quality control and research-and-development labs. Co-locating quality control and R&D activities in the same building will facilitate more collaboration and enable both teams to make full use of new state-of-the-art laboratory equipment installed at the center.

The new Gage Innovation Center will contain more than 50 pieces of highly technical lab equipment. The new facility will include the additions of a gas chromatograph and a combination gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, both critical to a multitude of tests run by Gage scientists.

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Officials on hand for the grand opening ceremonies included Congressman Sander Levin, Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard and David Schreiber, Oakland County Government's chief strategist and business development team leader, along with representatives from nearly three dozen key automotive customers and other neighboring civic and business leaders from Ferndale and Oakland County.

Sheriff Bouchard and Congressman Levin took part in ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Dan Finkiewicz, the company's chairman.

"Gage Products' investment in Oakland County improves the quality of life for all of our residents," Bouchard said. "The company's innovative techniques for responsible recycling will bring long-term benefits to the region."

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter noted "As one of Ferndale's largest employers and oldest companies, Gage has succeeded in a tough market by giving customers great service. The Gage Innovation Center is another example of Gage growing to meet the changing needs of their industry. It should help them remain leaders in their field and successful employers in our community."

The new facility will be equipped with a computerized integrated information system that will allow technicians to more quickly and efficiently share quality control and R&D testing results with other Gage staffers. "The new system will give us quicker turnaround on results, enabling expedited feedback to our customers," said Joe Porco, Gage vice president of sales, marketing and product development.

Gage also is adding new capabilities that include aromatics and detailed hydrocarbon analysis for fuels as well as a mass spectrometry upgrade for compound identifications. Expanded lab capabilities will provide Gage scientists with the additional tools to conduct critical testing on up to 50 distinct fuel properties.

"We looked at our processes and how they could be improved," Porco said. "The new lab will allow our quality control technicians to better focus on more than 500 tests we run each week."



Quality Control Technician Tim Reilly conducts a distillation test.

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Gage previously had relied on outsourcing to perform some of its testing, which can be both time consuming and costly. Porco noted that outsourced tests can take three or four days to complete due to packaging requirements and the need to ship samples back and forth to suppliers. “Bringing that testing in-house, we now can provide our customers with results in a day or less,” he noted. “And, more importantly, if results indicate re-testing is needed, it can begin right away.”

The company is in the process of certifying the new Gage Innovation Center laboratory to ISO 17025 standards. Gage currently is certified for ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004, as well as earning top supplier ratings from its automotive customers.

“We’ve seen significant growth over the past several years, and this investment will allow us to further improve customer service and grow our business in the years to come,” Gage Chairman and President Finkiewicz concluded. “The Gage Innovation Center will help us bring new products to market and bring new markets to Gage.”



Solvent storage tanks at Gage Products’ 12-acre campus in Ferndale, Michigan.

Gage Products customers include most major automakers and suppliers, as well as other manufacturers of consumer products and fuels.

Note to Editors: High resolution photography of the new facility is available on request.

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ABOUT GAGE PRODUCTS

A third-generation, family-owned business, Gage Products was founded in 1936 and has more than 29 years of chemical distillation experience. The company has pioneered development of “sustainable,” closed-loop manufacturing processes for automotive paint systems and custom chemical mixing capabilities to reduce process costs and increase effective resource management. Gage provides high-performance solvent blends, solvent reclamation, recycling and custom chemical toll manufacturing and remanufacturing, custom test fuel blends, calibration fluids, as well as paint line cleaning programs and specialty product solutions for its customer base of more than 20 global vehicle manufacturers and two dozen automotive and industrial suppliers.



Company Contact

Mark Wiseman
Gage Products
Phone: +1 248.541.3824
mwiseman@gageproducts.com

Media Contact

Larry Weis or Mike Arnholt
AutoCom Associates
Phone: +1 248.647.8621
Email: lweis@usautocom.com
marnholt@usautocom.com

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