

Hotset expansion begins



(l/r) Battle Creek Unlimited 1st Vice Chairman Richard Fleming, Hotset Corp. President/CEO Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Hotset GmbH founder Eugene Schwartzkopf, Maverick Construction President James Dally, and Battle Creek City Commissioner Pete Bilbia.

By James Gemmell
MiBiz Network

BATTLE CREEK — The only manufacturer of industrial coil and cartridge heaters in Michigan is going to get bigger.

Hotset Corp. broke ground August 27 for a 5,000-square-foot addition to the front of its 20,000-square-foot facility in Battle Creek's Fort Custer Industrial Park. Construction should be done by the end of the year, with a targeted opening date of January 15.

The expansion will allow Hotset

to add a dozen employees over the next two years to its 48-person staff. Continued growth in production has created cramped quarters in the plant.

"The expansion will create a more productive and efficient work group, because then we won't have to walk through half of the plant to get something from the engineering department," said Hotset President/CEO Kumar Bandyopadhyay.

In addition to providing more room for administrative and engineering functions, a wide-open space is being designed for office

cubicles in the new part of the building on Harts Lake Road.

Kalamazoo-based Maverick Construction Corp. is building the addition. Maverick Marketing & Administration Manager Dave Trombley informed *MiBiz* the exterior would be an attractive combination of brick and glass.

"It'll be a beautiful white sandwich panel, with a triangle-glass atrium out front," Trombley said. "The glass will be a chrome-reflective glass. The building front will have three red mullions (glass accents)."

Hotset began manufacturing in Battle Creek in 1991 as a Michigan corporation. It's an affiliate, not a subsidiary, of Germany-based Hotset GmbH. The electric heaters it makes can be used for the plastics, packaging, and die casting or rubber-injection molding industries. The products can also be customized for specialty industries, such as the medical field or in fuel-cell technologies.

"The growth of Hotset is a result of our strong employees and teamwork," Bandyopadhyay said. "And also, innovation of product applications. We go to the customer and find out what product we can make to give them the best service and productivity."

The privately funded expansion project will cost about \$800,000, factoring in equipment and furniture purchases. ■