

Pipe factory will create 112 jobs



MAJOR PROJECT: Project co-ordinator Richard Bisinella, MP Richard Marles, director Lino Bisinella and RPC's Andrew Sarich at the site

A \$17.7 million pipe manufacturing plant under construction in Corio will create up to 112 new jobs.

Geelong company L. Bisinella Developments is building the factory for RPC Technologies which will make GRP pipes for the Victorian Market.

Bisinella Developments is investing \$12 million in the 5600sqm factory and office complex near the corner of Heales and Bacchus Marsh roads.

RPC Technologies will lease the buildings and invest a further \$5.7 million in plant and equipment to facilitate the manufacture of fibre composite products.

A \$2.7 million grant from the joint Federal and State Government Geelong Investment and Innovation Fund is assisting RPC Technologies to establish the plant in Geelong.

Bisinella Developments Managing Director Lino Bisinella said yesterday construction of the factory began in October and was expected to be finished by April.

"When we were approached by Andrew Sarich of RPC Technologies about the possibility of locating the new plant in Geelong, we said that's great news for Geelong and we could build a custom-made factory for you in six months," Mr Bisinella said.

Corio MHR Richard Marles said the development was an example of how the Geelong Investment and Innovation Fund was building jobs in the region.

"It is expected this project will provide 112 jobs in making pipes, which is a growth area. There is a lot of pipe infrastructure being built in Victoria and this is a perfect place to be based," he said.

The new factory was an important milestone in the development of the Heales Rd industrial estate, Mr Marles said.

"I think this place will be transformed in five or 10 years from now," he said.

RPC Technologies managing director Tony Caristo said the company originally wanted to set up near Dandenong to make pipes for the Wonthaggi desalination plant but was attracted to look at Geelong after learning about the investment and innovation fund.

"This investment will enable RPC Technologies to build on its service offerings to customers who have operations or projects located within Victoria," Mr Caristo said.

RPC Technologies has been established in Australia for more than 35 years and has operations in New South Wales, Singapore and Indonesia.

The company is a leading supplier of corrosion resistant GRP/FRP fabrications, piping and ducting systems, acid resistant heavy duty linings, and specialist products for the industrial, transport and defence industries.

RPC Geelong Facility – Development Stage

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