

## First industrial tenant to move into technology park

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The first commercial/industrial business is slated to move into the Bluffs of Technology Park in Canton July 1.

FactoryMation, of Ball Ground, will move into the park, located off Interstate 575 at Riverstone Parkway, occupying 15,000 square feet of new space developed and built by Wilson, Huff & Neal. Development spokesman Watt Neal said FactoryMation will be the first occupant of a 57,000-square-foot building.

He said the completed building features brick and block masonry and a lot of glass, and it ties in with the park's technological theme.

"We're going to build three more premier top-of-the-line buildings as they are needed," Neal said. The completed development will total 200,000 square feet.

FactoryMation's Russ Sanders said he chose The Bluffs because of its proximity to the new Appalachian Technical College campus.

"We've been in business for two-and-a-half years and we're located up near the Cherokee County Airport right now," Sanders said. "We were growing like crazy, and had to get more space."



FactoryMation distributes industrial, electrical and electronic automation products for factories nationwide through its catalog and Web site.

"A good school in close proximity with future hires means a lot to us," Sanders said, noting that the technological and telephone applications made available by Windstream were also important to his choice.

"From an aesthetic standpoint, we like the area," he said, adding that the new location would enable the firm to optimize its shipping to provide fast response through UPS shipments.

"Factories depend on us," Sanders said. "They'll have an entire manufacturing line down waiting on a part, so we like to offer next-day service."

Cherokee Development Authority Executive Director Misti Martin (*Above Right*) said the authority is pleased to see tenants begin to occupy Wilson, Huff & Neal's development.

"With this location and the county's new administrative office/conference center opening up later this year, and Appalachian Tech's campus construction beginning; we will see a lot of energy in The Bluffs," Martin said. "The authority anticipates many great years of business growth to come."

The first building of Neal's development has four model spaces from 5,200 square feet to 7,200 square feet ready for occupancy and an additional 15,000 square feet unfinished. Founded in 1972, Wilson Huff & Neal has produced some \$143 million in commercial/industrial sales and leases in 2008 alone, Neal said. The development division owns more than 40 buildings totaling approximately 2 million square feet in North Atlanta and Savannah.