

# Continental CFD hire is a win for business, city

By Katherine R. Dougan

A 19-year veteran of the Clinton Fire Department joined the Continental Tire Company on March 16, bringing his experience and connections to the biggest Clinton business and continuing long-time liaison with the City and community.

Continental Tire hired Richard Hanks as the plant's Senior Facility Analyst, where he will be responsible for a team of first responders for any fire, medical or technical circumstances at the tire plant, which is Continental Tire's most technologically advanced plant in North America, according to company information.

"I will miss working as a public servant for the City of Clinton," Hanks said, adding, "I am grateful for having been part of such a great team. However, I look forward to working and training with multiple local agencies in Clinton and Hinds County in this new capacity."

"We work closely with the Clinton Fire Department and have a very



Richard Hanks, formerly of the Clinton Fire Department, has joined Continental Tire. Special to The Clinton Courier

good relationship with them," said Continental Tire Communications Specialist Quita Bride.

In Hanks' new position, he will learn the company's policies and procedures, which includes training at Continental's headquarters in Hanover, Germany. Speaking about his work at the plant in Clinton, Hanks

said: "As the plant grows, so will my team and the [three work] shifts."

"The most appealing part [of his job at Continental] is the opportunity to be a part of such a huge project from the very beginning. Continental is a great company with a great vision for the future. I look forward to this new journey in my career with the company."

Michael Egner, the plant manager for Continental Tire Company in Clinton, is pleased with the hire of Richard Hanks.

"Safety and security are very important to us! With his years of experience and being well connected in the area, he is the right fit for the position."

The proud father of an 18-year-old son, Hanks and his son enjoy hunting and fishing together.

Hanks earned his Associate's degree from Hinds Community College and trained in the University of Mississippi

Medical Center's Paramedics' Program.

Set to open in late 2019, Continental tire plant will produce large truck and bus tires. More than 2,000 career opportunities will be created over the next decade as well as significant contractor opportunities throughout the state.

By the time the tire plant officially starts production in 2020, about 400 employees will be hired, with approximately 2,500 jobs created by 2028.

The Clinton plant will be Continental's third tire plant in the U.S., and the company stated the plant will be its "flagship" plant for the U.S. The plant will produce commercial vehicle tires for over-road trucks, buses and large transport vehicles, and expects to sell the tires across the country. The company expects to produce 750,000 tires a year in Clinton initially, and will ramp up production soon after the start up.

Continental is a Germany-based global conglomerate that employs more than 320,000 worldwide, including approximately 50,000 workers at its twenty-two tire plants.



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