The Year In Review 2021

Contegra reports stellar year, more construction in coming season

Year two of the pandemic continues to challenge and change what and how Illinois-based Contegra Construction builds.

An ongoing impaired supply chain of materials and a labor shortage have spurred change to deliver more creative solutions by the firm to advance project momentum. Change also unfolds as new opportunities emerge reshaping and improving supply chains and manufacturing.

Approximately 70 percent of Contegra Construction's work serves the industrial sector, which includes warehouse/distribution, light industrial and manufacturing. Contegra also builds retail, multi-family and office. In the realm of industrial, the company says it has listened and adapted to its clients, who have been incredibly creative in developing ways to optimize through put to meet ongoing significant demand for products.

Centegra is also serving growing interest in reshoring, which is bringing back manufacturing facilities to the U.S. to fortify supply chains.

As a result, Contegra has had one of its best years ever, building four million square feet of space nationally. Next year, the firm anticipates building five million square feet of space. Revenues could grow by more than 20 percent in the coming year.

None of this happens without great employees, Contegra says. Their proficient skills have allowed the company expand its footprint nationally. In addition to a great deal of work locally, it is now building in Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and outstate Missouri. This has also allowed Contegra to recruit and train from a broader pool of talent. And the company has dedicated more resources to training and continuing education for superintendents and degreed professionals. From manufacturing, cold-storage and distribution to corporate headquarters, financial and recreational facilities, a growing client portfolio has entrusted Contegra to navigate through challenging market conditions.

A new 40,800-square-foot headquarters for icon Mechanical in Granite City. The two-story headquarters, the latest addition to icon's 10-building campus, was completed last spring by Contegra.

Locally, that has helped Contegra advance a number of projects this year, including:

- After recently completing a 624,000-square-foot distribution center at Northpoint Development's Gateway Tradeport in Pontoon Beach, it is now targeting a 2022 completion of a more than one million-square-foot distribution center at the development. By the end of next year, Contegra will have completed all four distribution centers at Gateway Tradeport totaling more than 2.7 million square feet of space.

- A new 70,000-square-foot headquarters/manufacturing facility for automotive LED lighting manufacturer Diode Dynamics in St. Charles, Mo. The just-completed project expands Diode Dynamics manufacturing capacity to support its growth.

- A new 40,800-square-foot headquarters for icon Mechanical in Granite City. The two-story headquarters, the latest addition to icon's 10-building campus, was completed last spring.

- A $5.7 million renovation to the Aquaport water park in Maryland Heights, Mo. Completed in time for summer, it features a self-contained surfing simulator, other water park amenities and upgraded systems to save on operational costs and improve water quality.

- A new branch bank for CNB Bank & Trust in Glen Carbon.

Looking ahead, Contegra sees the region particularly well suited for companies looking for new distribution/fulfillment center locations. The area's great highway system, good river transportation and Class-5 railroads are the foundation of a great logistics hub and the aforementioned reshoring. The company is currently building a reshoring facility — a 527,000-square-foot glove manufacturing facility for American Nitrile in Grove City, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

Material shortages remain challenging, but we've been able to work with clients early in the project planning stage to develop better lead times for structural steel, roof insulation and other supplies until the kinks in the supply chain are worked out.

These may be challenging times, but it has generated better ideas to serve clients. The next three to five years look promising for Contegra Construction.