

http://www.heraldstandard.com/news/local_news/redevelopment-authority-advances-funding-application-for-argon-st-expansion/article_cddc0ff5-db9e-51bd-8f67-d2c07df2e4e9.html

Redevelopment authority advances funding application for Argon ST expansion

By Patty Yauger pyauger@heraldstandard.com Feb 8, 2017 Updated 10 hrs ago



Patty Yauger|Herald-Standard

[Buy Now](#)

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority will submit an application to the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to aid in the expansion of the Argon ST/Boeing facility in Georges Township.

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority has advanced a funding application for the expansion of a local business.

In a unanimous vote of those in attendance at its meeting Wednesday, members authorized the submission of a \$1.5 million grant application to the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for Argon ST/Boeing located in the Fayette Business Park in Georges Township.

The planned 60,000 square foot facility will be constructed adjacent to the current plant.

"This obviously will enable Boeing to continue to be aggressive as they try to attract new product lines and provide new jobs," said Andrew French, authority executive director.

Boeing will invest about \$2.7 million in the project, bringing the total to \$4.2 million.

The expansion will also require the company to create an additional 60 positions, added French.

The county and authority's role was necessitated as private companies are not eligible to directly apply for the funding. County commissioners must sign off on the application before it is submitted.

According to the Boeing website, Argon ST, develops command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, reconnaissance and combat systems for the U.S. military and its allies.

Boeing acquired Argon in 2010, making it a division of its network and space systems.

The Georges Township plant, along with a second Argon ST facility in Lemont Furnace, was awarded a contract in 2015 to provide the U.S. Navy with five additional surface ship torpedo defense systems.

Known as "Nixie", the system lures torpedoes away from intended targets by mimicking a ship's acoustic signature, according to the Argon ST website.

"This is a win-win for the county," said French.

Voting in favor of the action were board members Paul Bortz, Dee John and Dale Malinzak. Directors Phil Michael and Jonathan Garlow were absent from the meeting.

Turning to other business, the board approved the authority's 2017 operational budget totaling \$1.18 million.

"It is a balanced budget," said French, adding that the bottom line is 3.3 percent or \$40,000 less than the prior year spending plan. "We were able to realize some savings through healthcare costs."

The budget included a 3 percent cost of living increase for employees in addition to a "merit pay" amount for certain workers, added French.

In related action, the board approved the hiring of Sidney Mack III as weatherization crew leader at an annual salary of \$29,250.

In other matters, the board additionally conducted the following business:

- Authorized Shannon Mahoney, weatherization coordinator to attend the Home Performance Coalition national conference in Tennessee, March 19-22.
- Agreed to allocate \$276,182 City Mission - Living Stones Inc., and \$156,178 to Fayette County Community Action Agency, from the authority's Emergency Solutions grant, to support the various programs offered by the two agencies.