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Turbocor breaks ground

If a groundbreaking confirms that a company is moving to town, then it's official: Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, Inc. is moving in.

More than 50 state, local government officials and business leaders welcomed the Montreal-based company Monday during a groundbreaking ceremony in Innovation Park that kicked off the construction of its new 65,000 square foot facility.

Turbocor, which promises to bring 150 jobs over the next five years, wants to be in by June.

"A groundbreaking is the beginning of jobs and economic development. . . We are so tickled you are here," said Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings, "and having been a part-time Tallahassee resident for years, you'll come to love the canopy roads. And you'll find it's a great place to live and do business."

Turbocor is a privately-run \$2.5 billion company that makes oil-free compressors using magnetic bearings, a technology Turbocor officials say can reduce energy costs by 30 to 40 percent.

It's the first company in about three years to build in Innovation Park and the first in more than a decade to bring higher-wage jobs. Three years ago, Florida State University built its A and B buildings, which house agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and Center for Advanced Power Systems.

"We're at the cusp of where this company is going to take off," said Mayor John Mark, who along with other city commissioners voted to take on the financial obligation of bringing the company to town after county officials took back its \$1.6 million. The company will get nearly \$7 million in incentives, including some from the state.

The first 50,000 square feet of the new manufacturing facility, about the size of a Publix grocery store, will be finished by the end of May. The remaining 15,000 square feet, primarily office space, will be finished a few months later.

"We're trying to get the equipment moved and up and running," said Jay Bostwick, vice president of sales for contractors Sperry & Associates. "It's a very accelerated schedule."

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