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Fisher breaks ground on new research and development lab

By RYAN BRINKS

At a time when the Fisher division of Emerson Process Management has been investing around the world, its Marshalltown leaders and local community officials celebrated a groundbreaking that has reenergized the company's home.

Fisher President Terry Buzbee and Gov. Chet Culver on Thursday heralded the symbolic start of the \$19 million project to turn an almost century old manufacturing plant into a state-of-the-art research and development laboratory.



Fisher leaders and dignitaries sunk their shovels into ground where a new entrance to their research lab will later be constructed. From left are Bob Schubert, Marshalltown City Council member; Sen. Larry McKibben, R-Marshalltown; Gov. Chet Culver; Fisher President Terry Buzbee; Mike Mason, executive vice president for Fisher; and Robert Mason, president of Fisher's Local Business Partners.

"Fisher has been on a journey for about the last 15 plus years to really extend our footprint and extend our leadership globally," Buzbee said.

Those efforts have reached Malaysia, India, Dubai, Russia and China in recent years.

"That is all really great, but what is really special is this investment of \$19 million to Marshalltown, Iowa, ... where it all began," he said.

The multi-million dollar facility will separate Fisher from its competitors, Buzbee said, move it a step farther ahead as a leader in the industry and accelerate a level of loyalty to its worldwide customers.

"We're 2.5 times the size of our nearest competitor, and with that size, we're able to make an investment that no competitor can compete with," he said.

Gov. Culver, partaking in his first groundbreaking ceremony since being elected, applauded Fisher's effort to help push the community and state into the future.

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“We’ve had great explorers — Marquette and Joliet, Louis and Clark — and in many ways, this is now our time to discover and to push the limits of what is possible,” Culver said. “... This company stands ready to be a player in the 21st Century expedition. They are going to be a key component of our success in the future when it comes to supplying the wonderful products they produce to the ethanol plants, the biodiesel plants, the geothermal companies, the wind, the solar, businesses we’re trying to keep and attract to our state.”

Buzbee too expressed pride in the initiative that all of Marshelltown can get behind and that could lead to a healthier company, community and state.

Beyond the initial investment in the flow lab, Buzbee said over time the company would renovate 100,000 square feet of the rest of the downtown plant.

Contact Ryan Brinks at 641-753-6611 or rbrinks@timesrepublican.com

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