



City of Duluth Communications Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact Mayor Don Ness at (218) 730-5230; or Amy Norris in the City's Communications Office at (218) 730-4312.

Iowa company will open facility in Duluth Nine new jobs to be created with potential growth

Hydro-Klean, Inc. a privately owned contract firm headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, announced today plans to open a satellite location in Duluth, Minn. this summer.

Founded in 1976, Hydro-Klean provides a wide range of industrial cleaning, municipal and environmental services to its clients in the middle two-thirds of the United States including northeastern Minnesota. The company is privately owned by Andrew and Becky Merial and David Jass, all of which have full time functional operating roles in the business.

"We are pleased Hydro-Klean is making this commitment to Duluth and our region," stated Don Ness, Mayor of Duluth. "With uncertain economic times, it's encouraging that a new business is locating here, creating new jobs and enhancing customer service to its existing clients."

Hydro-Klean services municipalities and several industry sectors including pulp and paper, shipping, mining, energy and manufacturing. The company has grown from a three-person operation to its current 93 person workforce, all in Des Moines. Nine people will be hired initially in Duluth, with more job growth expected later.

The growth potential in the region prompted this move. "We have provided services to our clients in northeastern Minnesota since 2002 and have had crews working in the Duluth area for the past two years," said Andrew Merial, CEO of Hydro-Klean. "We believe there is a sustainable opportunity to grow our company while helping our existing clients, many of which have asked us to move closer to them."

A team of economic development professionals led by Northland Connection, a program of the Northspan Group Inc., worked with Merial to facilitate the expansion. "The economic development community in the Duluth area has given us strong support, which made our decision to open a facility there an easy one," said Merial.



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Tom Cotruvo, executive director of the Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA), says Hydro-Klean will be a great addition to Duluth. “We are pleased to assist Mr. Merial including offering his company a loan from the Duluth 1200 Fund.”

Hydro-Klean will be located at the Garfield Enterprise Park facility, which is owned by Sherman Associates and will begin operations on June 1, 2009.

The economic development organizations that are working together to assist Hydro-Klean are Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX), Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA), the Duluth 1200 Fund, Inc., Minnesota Department of Economic Development (DEED) and Northland Connection.

For more information on Hydro-Klean, please visit its Web site at www.hydro-klean.com.

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