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DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAMLET (June 18, 2007) - Baugh Midwest Cooperative, an affiliate of foodservice marketer and distributor SYSCO, officially took possession of a 320-acre tract near Hamlet last Monday.

Baugh Midwest Cooperative is preparing to construct an 850,000 square foot redistribution center at the Hamlet site, that will include freezer, refrigeration and dry storage, as well as offices and a truck maintenance facility.

The RDC, when fully operational, will supply products to SYSCO's operating companies in the Midwest region. Those units, in turn, sell, market and distribute food products, as well as equipment and supplies; to restaurants, healthcare and educational facilities, and to the hospitality industry.

Onsite construction is expected to begin early this summer, and construction should continue for about 16 months. Several outbuildings have been torn down, but the farmhouse, garage and a pole barn will be used as a headquarters area for contractors.

"They are in the process of clean-up at this time," said Starke County Development Foundation executive director Charles Weaver. "Baugh Midwest is hoping to have a final general contractor under contract by the end of July," said Weaver, "Soon after that we can expect to see some activity on the property."

The new center will eventually create over 500 jobs, but Weaver said that applications for those jobs are not yet being accepted. Weaver said that once a decision is made by the company to begin seeking job applications, media organizations will be contacted to inform the public when and where those applications will be available.

Starke County and the SCDF also purchased 24 acres of land, which will be made available for those improvements.

The State of Indiana, along with Starke County and the Starke County Development Foundation will provide infrastructure, including roadway improvements, rail-spur, and water and sewer extensions, using grants from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation Development Grant Fund, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Economic Development Block Grant Program, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Commission Grant

Fund, Tax Incremental Financing Bonds and County Economic Development Income Tax to fund the infrastructure.

Following construction, the water and sewer improvements will be owned and operated by the Town of Hamlet.

For the calendar year 2006, parent company SYSCO generated \$33.9 billion in sales. The Hamlet RDC is the third site location of several facilities planned throughout the United States as part of SYSCO's Supply Chain Initiative.

The first RDC, which began shipping products in February 2005, is located in Front Royal, Virginia. That center services 14 of SYSCO's broadline distribution companies in the Northeast Region. SYSCO's second RDC, in Alachua, Florida, is currently under construction, and is expected to supply broadline operations in the Southeast Region.

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