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BIG RIVER COMPLETES LEED SILVER PROJECT

A former vacant warehouse Downtown has been renovated to LEED Silver certified status and is now the new home of Big River Engineering & Manufacturing.

The 8,500-square-foot warehouse at 85 N. Fourth St. becomes the second building in Memphis to become LEED Silver certified and just the third in Shelby County, according to officials with the Memphis chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Big River designs, fabricates and adds controls to custom-made machines that are used by such companies as Wright Medical Group Inc. and Smith & Nephew Inc. Big River earns \$1 million-\$2.5 million a year in revenue and employs 10-19 depending on work orders.

The project's design kept only the exterior walls and structure of the old building, which was built in the 1950s as an auto transmission repair shop and was later used as stables for the mounted division of the Memphis Police Department. All of the interiors and building systems are new.

"After weighing our options we felt like re-purposing the existing building was the right thing to do," said Tom Roehm, CEO at Big River, in a statement. "The size and location fit our needs. At that point, the decision to go for LEED certification was a

natural fit."

The local chapter of USGBC has scheduled an open on March 18 from 5-7 p.m. so builders, architects and others can see the transformation and learn more about the advantages of having a LEED facility.

The tour will highlight many of the water and energy conserving features of facility, including skylights, automated daylighting controls and insulation made from 100 percent recycled products. The event is being held in conjunction with the Sierra Club's local Chickasaw Group.

Similar tours of other green facilities in Tennessee will be held throughout that week.

"Our built environment presents a tremendous opportunity as we look for ways to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions," said Peter Warren, architect with Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects Inc. and member of the USGBC-Memphis board, in a statement. "In addition, this project is a small, but significant local step toward reuse of our neglected Downtown building stock."

Askew Nixon was the project architect, Montgomery Martin the general contractor and Askew Hargraves Harcourt provided structural and civil engineering services. Big River

will receive \$10,000 from Memphis Light, Gas & Water as part of MLGW's LEED Incentive Grant Program.

For more information, visit <http://chapters.usgbc.org/memphis>.