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Mayor's message: Praxair Distribution expands

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Praxair Distribution, Inc., a subsidiary of global Fortune 300 company Praxair, Inc. recently celebrated its expansion to Warwick with the opening of a new store to meet the growing need for its speciality and industrial packaged gases and other products.

The facility, on Jefferson Blvd., is now part of Praxair Distribution's nationwide network of more than 300 store locations and an online store and catalog. In addition to gases like oxygen, nitrogen, argon, helium and hydrogen, the store will offer safety products and other items such as welding equipment and supplies.

Catering to a variety of industries such as aerospace, chemicals, electronics, energy, food/beverages, healthcare, manufacturing and metals, Praxair Inc. employs more than 26,000 people in more than 30 countries to produce, sell and distribute its products and technologies. It is the largest industrial gases company in North and South America and among the largest worldwide, with sales last year of \$11 billion.

The company, founded over a century ago, also prides itself on its reputation for sustainable development, and for nearly a decade has been the only United States chemical company named as part of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. It also has a Hollywood connection, earning an Academy Award for its "synthetic air" that was used for special effects in movies, including Spider Man, Armageddon and Bruce Almighty.

In making the announcement about their expansion here, John Panikar, president of Praxair Distribution said the company sees "an excellent opportunity to be successful in Warwick and contribute to the growth of its economy."

We're pleased to welcome such a well-respected and successful company to our community and look forward to building a good working relationship with them.

Scott Avedisian is the mayor of Warwick.

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