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# Strasburg printing plant plans to expand

Perry Judd's Inc. will build 50,000-square-foot addition to its facility

By Carolyn Kelster Baker

Perry Judd's Inc. plans to expand its Strasburg magazine and catalog printing plant to keep pace with growth.

"Our Strasburg division has had an outstanding 1998," Craig A. Hutchinson, president and chief executive officer for Perry Judd, said Friday. "We expect that growth to continue and we want to accommodate it."

Plans call for the Wisconsin-based compa-

ny, which is the seventh-largest magazine and catalog printing facility in the United States, to build a 50,000-square-foot addition to the plant on state Route 55 east of the town. The addition would be used for printing equipment and warehouse space, Hutchinson said.

The company currently uses warehouse facilities outside the plant and Hutchinson said the company wants to bring at least part of that back to the plant.

The expansion will increase the capacity of the printing plant, he said. Construction could begin late this fall or early next year, he said.

Hutchinson wouldn't say how many jobs will be created by the expansion.

PPC Holdings Inc., the parent company of

Perry Graphic Communications, bought Judd's Inc. late last year. As a result of the merger, Perry Graphic changed its name to Perry Judd's Inc. The combined companies now employ 2,200 people and produce revenue in excess of \$300 million.

Soon after the merger, Hutchinson said the company was "aggressively looking to grow."

One way the company planned to do that was to reopen the company's plant at the Mt. Jackson Industrial Park near Interstate 81 within two years. Hutchinson said the company hasn't abandoned that possibility, but has developed no firm plans to open it.

"We are not close enough," he said.

Another way the company planned to grow was through acquisitions. So far, no more

acquisitions have been made, Hutchinson said.

In August, the company sold its Port City Press in Baltimore to Mack Printing, a short-run magazine, book and journal printing company based in Pennsylvania, Hutchinson said. Port City Press was previously owned by Judd's Inc.

Hutchinson declined to disclose the purchase price, but he said the money would be reinvested in the magazine and catalog printing business.

Another holding of the company, Judd's On Line, has relocated to downtown Winchester's technology zone and is being operated autonomously, Hutchinson said.

"It's growing quite rapidly and we are pleased with it," he said.