

Festo Marks 50 Years in the U.S. with Major Expansions in U.S.-Based Manufacturing and R&D

The Festo Mason, Ohio, Campus will be the site of a Global Production Center and expanded Technology Engineering Center.

ISLANDIA, NY, August 17, 2022 — Festo U.S., celebrating its 50th anniversary year, announces expansion plans for its 47-acre campus in Mason, Ohio. A new production facility and the expanded research and development center will be dedicated to U.S.-centric automation components, systems, and solutions. Festo, a \$3 billion family-owned company, is a global innovation leader in pneumatic and electric automation systems.

The campus, 30 miles north of Cincinnati, will be the site of a new Festo Global Production Center (GPC), the designation for the company's most advanced automated manufacturing facilities. The GPC will focus on flexible automation in a direct response to Festo customers who want custom solutions that serve to maximize performance and differentiate their machines and systems from the competition.

The Mason GPC is scheduled to begin production by year end and will be the first of its kind in North America for Festo and the twelfth within the company. The most recent GPC was dedicated in Suncun, China, in 2019 and is a leader in high-volume automated production.

The Mason campus is also the location of the newly expanded Festo Technology Engineering Center (TEC). The expansion is expected to be complete by the end of September. Festo TECs are research and development centers where customers collaborate with Festo personnel to co-develop solutions. Festo personnel also engage in market-focused product and system development at a TEC.

This is the second Festo TEC in the U.S. The first facility opened in 2018 in Billerica, Mass., and is devoted to Life Science solutions, including precision liquid handling and mechatronic systems for high-speed automated laboratory equipment. Personnel at the Billerica TEC developed solutions for automating COVID vaccine production and high-speed automated testing for COVID infections.

The 47-acre Festo Mason campus is currently comprised of three buildings totaling 565,000 square feet. The seven-year-old complex houses the Festo North America logistics and warehouse center. This fully automated replenishment and inventory facility receives, stores, and ships a large selection of the 30,000-item Festo catalog throughout North America. Systems within the center can pick 10,000 products per day without an error. The storage capacity end-to-end is 35 miles long with automated material handling equipment that can accelerate faster than a sports car.

The Mason campus is also the site of the Festo North America production center where products are assembled and customized. These products include valve terminals, gantry robots, robotic surgical arms, automated pipettes for laboratory devices, and systems for semiconductor manufacture to name a few. Personnel at the production center have the expertise and the digitized systems available that enable a high level of customization. The

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new GPC will expand these capabilities exponentially through flexible automation.

Festo Didactic North America recently relocated to the Mason facility. Festo Didactic supports educators, educational institutions, and industries to develop the workforce of today and tomorrow through both hands-on and digital learning experiences.

“As Festo builds on its remarkable past as an automation innovator, we confidently forge ahead toward the future,” said Carlos Miranda, CEO, Festo Business Region North America. “Festo U.S. is growing year over year. We are penetrating new markets as we continue to build on our strong position in the U.S.

“The post-Covid world is changing,” Miranda continued. “Supply-chain issues and other disruptions are causing regionalization and localization to rise. This means the U.S. must expand manufacturing. With a shortage of skilled labor, automated production and training of automation technicians will play an increasing role in U.S. manufacturing growth. As an automation provider and training specialist, Festo’s mission is to support our customers in becoming more productive, more efficient, and more competitive.”

Festo was founded in 1925 by Gottlieb Stoll in Esslingen, Germany, near Stuttgart. Festo started as a machine shop that manufactured specialized woodworking machinery. In 1950, Gottlieb’s son, Kurt, realized the potential of pneumatics while at a U.S. trade show. Rapid growth followed due to the company’s capabilities in automation.

Festo U.S. 1972 - 2022

Festo U.S. was established in Port Washington, New York, in 1972 to provide parts and services for the company’s woodworking equipment and line of pneumatic automation components. Eleven years later Festo U.S. began producing pneumatic cylinders in the U.S. and launched mobile showrooms that demonstrated the company’s automation technology. Investments in distribution, manufacturing, personnel development, and training steadily followed from then to now.

In the 2000s, Festo U.S. has come into its own as one of the most respected automation suppliers in the United States based on the expertise of its people, the quality of its products, and its innovations in training, distribution, e-commerce, and custom solutions. Festo U.S. headquarters is located in Islandia, New York, on Long Island.

“Being an automation provider requires more than just supplying components,” Miranda observed. “Competitiveness for our customers means aiding them in lowering engineering costs and speeding time to market. Adding value requires a supplier that can speak intelligently with customers about their markets and applications in order to offer the components and solutions that are suitable for their end-use customers. Everyone who engages with Festo U.S. knows these are our qualities.”

Currently Festo U.S. is developing automated solutions for the commercial space industry, electric vehicle manufacture, warehouse automation, and the fast-food industry. Festo U.S. continues to support industries already using automation for assembly, testing, food and beverage processing, packaging, and automotive manufacturing to name just a few.

As part of its 50th Anniversary, Festo U.S. held a gala in Cincinnati, Ohio, in July and will host a second celebration in New York City in October. Members of the Stoll family, government dignitaries, customers, distributors, and team members will attend.

Press Images



Festo Bionics

Most of the more than 100 guests at the Festo 50th Anniversary Gala held in Cincinnati had their pictures taken with the Bionic Swift and Butterfly – Festo flying robots modeled after nature. From left to right: Frank Notz, Festo Management ...



Festo Bionic Swift

A guest at the Festo 50th Anniversary Gala marvels at the lifelike flight of the Festo Bionic Swift.

About Festo US

Festo is a leading manufacturer of pneumatic and electromechanical systems, components, and controls for process and industrial automation. For 100 years with more than 50 in the U.S., Festo Corporation has continuously elevated the state of manufacturing with innovations and optimized motion control solutions that deliver higher performing, more profitable automated manufacturing and processing equipment. Through advanced technical and industrial education, Festo Didactic Learning Systems and its partners prepare workers for current and future manufacturing technologies.