

C.F. Martin & Co.

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"This is a really unique facility," Kennedy said. "There aren't a lot of organizations that have the needs that we do, which was a driving factor in our decision to build our own facility" rather than purchase an existing building or seek adaptive reuse, Kennedy said.

Don Cunningham, President & CEO of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC), was among the regional officials and dignitaries acknowledged during the ribbon-cutting event.

Martin Guitar has long benefited from Lehigh Valley's central location on the East Coast, proximity to markets, and availability of labor. Martin officials have praised Lehigh Valley's workforce for their strong work ethic and willingness to learn detail-oriented skills.

"This new warehouse project has been a few years in the making, and we're marking the completion of a milestone in the company's history, like when we first moved to the Lehigh Valley in 1839," said Thomas Ripsam, CEO of C.F. Martin & Co.

The company first broke ground on the new facility in March 2020. It will occupy about half of the space, while leasing the remaining half to a third party, according to Nathan Eckhart, CFO of C.F. Martin & Co.

The building was constructed with a focus on sustainability, including a 30-year roof that can accommodate the installation of future solar panels that will offset 100% of the building's electrical use. The company plans to pursue LEED Silver Certification.

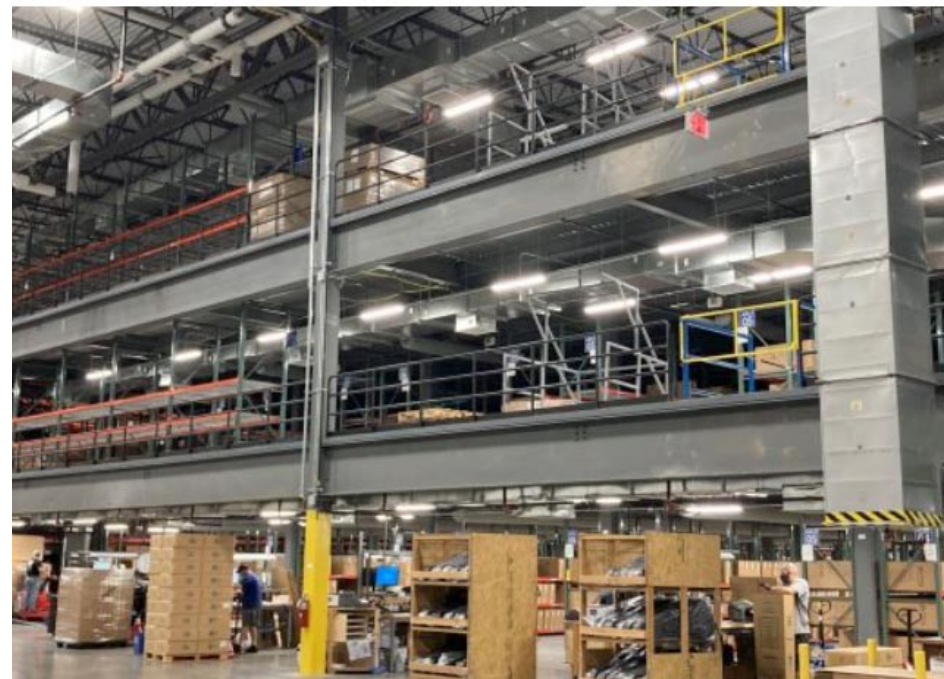
The facility also includes a state-of-the-art HVAC system that maintains a constant temperature of 68 to 75 degrees and a relative humidity of 40% to 46%. This is crucial for the proper storage of Martin's instruments, even for short periods of time.

The new facility is located near the Route 33 interchange that opened in 2015, a \$40 million initiative that left the Chrin Commerce Centre in a position to become a major area of growth for Lehigh Valley.

Since the interchange was established, the Chrin Commerce Centre has welcomed such tenants as Amazon, Fedex Ground, Lulus, Mondelez Global, Porsche, XPO Logistics, and others, creating hundreds of jobs.



Chris Martin IV, executive chairman and former CEO of C.F. Martin & Co., cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new facility.



Thoams Ripsam, CEO of C.F. Martin & Co., speaks at the grand opening of the new facility.

