

A perfect FIT



Grand opening: Jamie Stitt, Clifford Einstein, Scott Ramsland, Raymond Cheng, and Mark Potts stand by as Loretta Lee, Chairman of Merchant House International, Inc., cuts the ribbon to open FIT USA.

“It’s like a breath of fresh air economically for us,” Mayor Mark Potts said of the opening of FIT USA in [Jefferson City](#) at its ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday (May 22, 2014) afternoon.

Footwear Industries of Tennessee, Inc. (FIT USA) celebrated the opening of its new 40,000 square foot production facility in Jefferson City’s industrial park on Municipal Drive. Governor Haslam first announced the opening of FIT USA in September 2013.

The celebration included speeches, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and tours of the plant. The manufacturing facility will produce men’s leather work boots and shoes.

“You have picked a good place because this is a community that we know has skills,” said Clifford Einstein, a member of the Board of Directors for Merchant House International, which is FIT USA’s parent company.

The Footwear Division of The Merchant House International Group moved from its headquarters in Tianjin, China, to Jefferson City. This is their first manufacturing facility in the United States.

Raymond Cheng, Chief Executive Officer of Sozo Group, stated that Loretta Lee, Chairman of Merchant House International, Inc., has a vision to bring manufacturing closer to the consumer market.

Jamie Stitt, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Business Development for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, spoke on behalf of Governor Haslam and Commissioner Hagerty.

“There is one word to describe Tennessee’s current place in the world of business, and that’s momentum,” she said.

Also among the ceremony’s distinguished speakers was Scott Ramsland, Executive Vice-President and General Merchandising Manager of Sears Holdings Corporation.

FIT USA has hired 50 employees, and will reach a total of 109 in the next three months.

“For years, we put hard-working Americans into our boots, and now our boots will be putting hard-working Americans into great jobs,” Lee said.

By Katy Hopkins – Reporter [The Standard Banner](#) | Tuesday, May 27, 2014

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