

Brazilian Manufacturer Credits Ohio's Infrastructure with Decision to Launch U.S. Operations in Findlay

On Jan. 30, 2015, Dow Chemical closed its packaging films plant after more than 50 years in Findlay. Dow's decision to close the plant opened a door for Valgroup, which manufactures films similar to those produced by Dow.

COMPANY PROFILE

Valfilm USA is a subsidiary of Brazilian company, Valgroup which specializes in developing, manufacturing and marketing flexible packaging in polyethylene films. With over 30 years in the market, the company is considered one of the largest and most efficient organizations.

BUSINESS NEED

"We were looking for the last 10 years to come to the United States," said Tiago Geronimi, director of Valfilm USA, "but we weren't sure how to start from zero." Originally, Valgroup had planned to base its U.S. operations in either the Carolinas or Texas.

OHIO SOLUTIONS

It was Dow that reached out to Valgroup about purchasing the plant when Dow decided to close. Valgroup – one of Dow's largest customers – was already looking for an opportunity to open a plant in the United States. The benefits of Ohio's infrastructure were too valuable to ignore.

"We found out that the big customer market is here, and that we could be serviced by rail," said Valgroup CEO Carlo Bergamschi. "So actually, we found that logistically it [Ohio] made sense."

According to Valfilm's Geronimi, additional advantages included nearby colleges, the support of the thriving plastics industry in Ohio and access to a talent pool skilled in plastics film manufacturing. "This was a great opportunity for us," said Geronimi.

The transition from Dow to Valfilm USA can be credited to a collaboration between the two companies and a partnership among JobsOhio, RGP and Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development, which worked together to facilitate the purchase of the plant.

PROJECT STATS

- **Location:** City of Findlay
- **Total investment:** \$13.3 million
- **Anticipated job creation:** 80
- **Jobs retained:** 55
- **Facility specs:** 200,000 square feet

"People from Ohio helped us a lot with the transition and to close the deal. It was a prime location for us to continue to grow."

Tiago Geronimi, Director



For more information contact:
Glenn Richardson
richardson@jobs-ohio.com
614.300.1378