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## Michelin to lease distribution center in Wilmington

By [Alejandra Cancino](#)

Tribune staff reporter

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Illinois and the city of Wilmington have assembled a slew of incentives — valued at more than advertisement \$2.5 million — for a mammoth warehouse and distribution center and to convince tire manufacturer Michelin, the largest tenant in the facility, to expand its footprint in the state.

Michelin will lease a 1.7 million-square-foot distribution facility at the RidgePort Logistics Center to house commercial, industrial, car, motorcycle and bicycle tires. The facility, which is about the size of 30 football fields, is expected to be delivered in July 2015.

The state pledged \$126,000 in training funds to Michelin in exchange for retaining 104 jobs and creating 200, said Dave Roeder, a spokesman with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. (An earlier deal was worth \$74,000 in training funds, but the state increased the value of the incentive when the company pledged to create 100 additional jobs.)

Roeder said the facility sits in a special taxing district, which also allows Michelin to tap into incentives such as tax credits, property tax abatements and sales tax exemptions. Those incentives are valued at \$2.1 million.

Michelin is relocating from a smaller facility in Monee, which it had considered moving to Michigan, Roeder added.

Wilmington pledged \$358,000 in utility tax breaks to Michelin. It will also consider a rebate of 50 percent of its telecommunication tax for six years if the developer, Ridge Development, uses energy-efficient building materials.

Wilmington has also pledged \$236 million tax increment financing funds to Ridge.

A groundbreaking ceremony of the Michelin facility has been scheduled for Wednesday. Local and state officials, including State Rep. John Anthony, R-Morris, and Marty Orr, the mayor of Wilmington, are expected to attend.

McKay TransCold, a hauler of refrigerated and frozen freight, is also leasing a warehouse in RidgePort, which is owned by an affiliate of Prudential Insurance Co. Construction for that 100,000 square foot warehouse started earlier this year.

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