

## Columbian Chemicals announces major Hamilton expansion

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A major expansion is in store for a Hamilton company.

Columbian Chemicals announced Tuesday it has "entered the initial phase of expansion evaluation" of its local plant as demand for its products rises.

In a news release, the company said major global tire manufacturers have announced significant expansion programs in North America driving expected demand growth for the carbon black made in Hamilton beyond current production capacity.

The company did not reveal the value of the expansion or size of the project.

"Birla Carbon is committed to supporting our customers' growth plans," said John Loudermilk, Columbian's President, North America. "The Hamilton Plant's outstanding history of producing world class products, the proximity to our customer base, and the excellent talent pool in the Ontario region position us well to provide that support."

Local plant manager Brian Young added: "This is an exciting opportunity for the Hamilton Plant and a testament to our outstanding workforce and the Hamilton Region."

Columbian Chemicals is a division of Birla Carbon, the world leading carbon black business of the Adyta Birla Group, a \$35B global conglomerate.

The company said it will begin the necessary permitting processes along with front end engineering in the first quarter of 2012 to confirm feasibility of new production capacity along with a state of the art energy center.



Columbian Chemicals. Columbian Chemicals is beginning engineering work on a significant expansion of its Hamilton plant. Ron Albertson/The Hamilton Spectator Source: The Hamilton Spectator

Phase 1 of the investment is expected to include an estimated 45,000 tonnes of new carbon black production capacity along with an energy centre designed to leverage efficiencies of the plant to supply electricity for both internal and external uses.

Watch [thespec.com](http://thespec.com) for updates and see the full story in tomorrow's Spectator.

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