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Manufacturing

# Stellar Snacks plans \$137 million investment in West Louisville facility



Image: Louisville Business First

Stellar Snacks co-founders, Gina Galvin (left) and Elisabeth Galvin, announce a \$137 million investment in a West Louisville facility.

MICHAEL L. JONES



By Michael L. Jones – Reporter, Louisville Business First

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A Nevada-based snack food company is making the biggest investment in West Louisville in more than two decades.

State and local officials joined Elisabeth and Gina Galvin, the mother and daughter co-founders of Stella Snacks, to announce the \$137 million investment at a press conference held at the former Black Leaf Chemical site on Tuesday.

Stellar Snacks plans to employ 350 people at the 434,000-square-foot facility, located at 1391 Dixie Highway in the Park Hill neighborhood. The jobs are expected to pay an average wage of \$30 an a hour.

Elisabeth Galvin said the emerging Park Hill neighborhood is the perfect environment for the growing snack food company.

"When I arrived her in Louisville, I felt the magic, the energy of the city and the people," Elisabeth said. "I knew it was the right place to be, this new plant. I'm immensely grateful and thanks to all of you for welcoming us."



State and local government officials pose with the founders of Stellar Snacks.

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The project is contingent upon final approval of state incentives by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA). These incentives are not related to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program currently in place for the West End Opportunity Partnership.

The KEDFA incentives may include support for rail access to the building and per-job grants with added benefits for the hiring of individuals who reside in the nine neighborhoods that comprise the West End Opportunity area.

Gov. Andy Beshear said the Stellar Snacks investment is a game-changer because West End residents will be able to work good-paying jobs without leaving their own community.

"We know that the people of West Louisville have been overlooked when it comes to big investments like this," Beshear added. "Today, we are changing that. From the start of my administration, we've been determined to get big things done, right here."

Stellar Snacks is the first woman-owned pretzel manufacturer in the United States. Elisabeth Galvin grew up in the South of France and came to America at age 26.

She founded her first company, Delyse, in 1992. It makes several snack brands, mostly for airlines. Elisabeth formed Stellar Snacks with her daughter Gina in 2019.



Gina Galvin (right), co-founder of Stellar Snacks, presents gift boxes to Gov. Andy Beshear and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman.

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At Tuesday's press conference, Gina said she felt at home in Louisville.

"The next chapter and journey ahead is phenomenal one," Gina explained. "It has been paved by good signs, which me and my mom believe profoundly in. Delyse's logo was the Fleur De Lis. So, it feels like every street here in Louisville is telling us, 'Welcome to your new home.'"

Work on the new Stellar Snacks manufacturing facility is scheduled to begin in March 2024 with the baking of the first products at the location in September 2024.

Jobs created at the Louisville operation will consist of pretzel-makers – including master pretzel-maker and apprentice roles – production team members, engineering and maintenance managers, mechanics, technicians, receptionists and human resources assistants.

Hiring is expected to begin with a job fair in December. The company will partner with local community colleges and trade schools to provide real-world work experience and positions for students pursuing careers in industrial, electrical and robotic engineering.

**T H E L I S T**

## Kentucky Business Investment Tax Credit Recipients – Preliminary approval

Total project cost

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Prior Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Wieland North America Inc.
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	Kentuckiana Curb Co. dba KCC Cos.
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	RFC LLC
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