

Memphis Business Journal - February 11, 2008
<http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2008/02/11/story6.html>

Memphis Business Journal

Friday, February 8, 2008

AOC's corporate headquarters to be built with green features for LEED certification

Memphis Business Journal - by [Andy Ashby](#)

AOC LLC has started construction on its new corporate headquarters with an eye on the environment.

The Collierville-based company is seeking a silver LEED certification for its new corporate home, scheduled to be completed by late 2008.

AOC, a manufacturer and marketer of unsaturated polyesters and vinyl ester resins, started as a joint venture between **Alpha Corp.** and Owens Corning in 1994. The privately held Alpha Corp. bought Owens Corning's joint venture interest in 1998.

The company now has six manufacturing locations in the U.S., Canada and in Mexico.

One of the company's issues was utilizing its space. It had corporate employees and research and development people spread across different buildings.

"It is a matter of both inefficiency and difficulty in working together when you have people split," says Steve Martin, director for global communications for AOC. "What really drove the decision to do it now was to get people in like functions together so they can work better."

Therefore, AOC decided to build an \$8 million, 49,350-square-foot building to hold about 70 executives and support staff.

Allen & Hoshall, Inc. is the project's engineering firm, **Montgomery Martin Contractors LLC** is the general contractor and McGehee Nicholson Burke Architects PC is designing it.

The move allows AOC's research and development people to move into the former corporate space and expand.

"In our industry, research and development work is primary and it is most important for them to have the space they need instead of bumping elbows," Martin says.

The company decided to pursue LEED certification because it wanted to follow best practices in its office space, similar to how it follows best practices in its manufacturing, Martin says.

One of the ways the company is going for silver LEED certification is through the use of a

