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A West Michigan chair manufacturer plans to move manufacturing from China to Greenville, adding a planned 93 jobs over the next two to three years (Courtesy ZERO1.com).

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## Jobs move from China to Greenville

93 new jobs planned by chair manufacturer ZERO1

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GREENVILLE, Mich. (WOOD) - A West Michigan chair manufacturer plans to move manufacturing from China to Greenville, adding a planned 93 jobs over the next two to three years.

ZERO1 LLC co-founder David Valdiserri told 24 Hour News 8 that China still has an edge with labor costs, but greater manufacturing efficiency and the decline of the value of the dollar shrink the gap between the cost of doing business in China and doing business in the United States.

Many companies do not take into account the considerable cost of shipping, Valdiserri said, particularly the costs that a company has to swallow if a container comes full of chairs with imperfections.

"It's a logistical nightmare," Valdiserri said.

Aided by local tax breaks on company equipment, ZERO1 is moving manufacturing as well as its design office and headquarters to the Clarion Technologies building in Greenville.

Hiring at ZERO1, currently headquartered in Ada Township, could begin as early as December. Resumes and applications are not being accepted yet, Valdiserri said.

Clarion is planning new hiring of its own, city leaders said, also thanks in part to local property tax exemptions. The injected molded plastics company plans to add 52 jobs in Greenville over the next to three years.



The new jobs come at a time when Montcalm County's most recent official unemployment figure stands at 17.9 percent, slightly down from a peak of 19.3 percent in June.

"We're excited to have any job growth that we can get at this point, given Michigan's economy and our local economy as well," said Cameron Van Wyngarden, Greenville assistant city manager. "This shows that innovation is still happening and good things are still happening in places like Greenville."

After votes from the city council, ZERO1 will receive roughly \$74,000 in personal property tax exemptions for new equipment over 12 years and Clarion Technologies will get a \$22,647 break on personal property taxes for new equipment over the same time period.

The tax breaks "will be regained many times over in the course of 12 years," Van Wyngarden said, because of the economic boost workers will provide to other local businesses and the housing market.