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SunGold Foods celebrates startup of state-of-the-art sunflower roasting facility

Lubbock location is the first in-shell processing plant in the southern growing region

LUBBOCK, TEXAS—Local dignitaries and regional sunflower growers joined officials from SunGold Foods in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the company's newest processing plant for in-shell sunflower seeds. The Lubbock, Texas, facility is roasting, salting and seasoning confection sunflower seeds for consumption throughout the U.S. and international markets using state-of-the-art technology exclusively developed by SunGold.

"We've had long-standing relationships with sunflower growers in Texas, and with the products we produce, quality in the field has direct impact on quality that ends up in the package. With our new location in Lubbock, it's easier for us to access high quality crops from our southern growers and we've got great proximity to major consumer markets for sunflower seed snacks," said Bob Majkrzak, CEO of SunGold Foods.

The Lubbock plant is the first confection sunflower seed processing plant located convenient to southern growers. Almost half of all in-shell sunflower seeds consumed in the U.S. are grown in the southern growing region comprised of Texas, Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska; Texas leads the southern region in the number of sunflower acres planted.

"Our research and development over the past ten years has brought us what we feel is the most technologically advanced sunflower seed roasting plant in North America. Our systems and controls allow for a high level of customization of product, and the energy efficiency of this new plant is outstanding," concludes Majkrzak.

SunGold retrofitted an existing building at 901 East 66th Street. The total capital investment of appropriately \$11.5 million is one of the largest in the company's history, and uses technology that was exclusively developed and tested by the SunGold team at the company's North Dakota facilities. Automation at critical points of processing ensures consistent quality, especially in the control of moisture and salt levels, as well as energy savings.

SunGold and Red River Commodities is a part of Amsterdam Commodities N.V. (Acom), the Dutch international trading house active in the processing and worldwide merchandising of spices, nuts, dried fruit, tea and specialty food ingredients. Acom has been listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange since 1908. The investment in the new SunGold plant in Lubbock strengthens Acom's global proposition in the international and U.S. food markets and is proof of the company's commitment to the development of Red River Commodities and SunGold Foods.

"We have successfully operated our bird food production plant in Lubbock for many years and we are excited to open our second facility in the city. Lubbock provides us with access to many skilled employees and proximity to high quality sunflower acres. The SunGold Foods plant is an important project to us and we are pleased to support Red River Commodities with the development of this new facility," said Yoav Gottesman, Supervisory Board Director for Acom.

Economic impact to the region is estimated at \$17.5 million annually, and 40 new jobs have already been created and filled plus the facility plans to hire another 65 area workers over the next five years. The combination of location, the local workforce and the efforts of the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance all played a major role in the company's decision to locate the plant in the community.

SunGold Foods is a business unit of Red River Commodities, Inc., of Fargo, N.D. In addition to this new facility, Red River Commodities has operated a bird food processing plant in Lubbock since 1995. SunGold Foods has existing plant operations in Horace, N.D., and Fargo and Red River Commodities has plant operations in Fargo; Colby, Kan.; Lubbock, Texas; and Zevenbergen, The Netherlands.

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