

Deal renews push for local manufacturing

Global forces reshape production

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With plants in Denmark, China and Loves Park, Danfoss Drives had choices where to expand manufacturing.

That it picked Loves Park for a 100,000-square-foot facility to make air-conditioning controls might be an economic harbinger of factories to come.

The Danfoss site on Interstate 39 was once seen as land fit for distribution centers, like the massive 1.45 million square foot warehouse Lowe's opened in southwest Rockford in 2007.

Now the region's real estate brokers and economic development officials are bullish on manufacturing's prospects.

Global forces are reshaping where products are made. After years of factory flight to low wage countries, skilled labor is trumping labor cost, which bodes well for northern Illinois.