

Tulsa-based SemMaterials to build first plant in Kansas

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SemMaterials of Tulsa plans to build its first Kansas polymer modified asphalt terminal on a site purchased from Butaphalt Technologies International.

SemMaterials, a subsidiary of SemGroup, also acquired asphalt technologies and related assets in Oklahoma from Butaphalt.

Construction on the site in Halstead, Kan., is expected to begin before the end of the year. The new plant is expected be operational for the 2006 paving season.

The purchase of the Kansas and Oklahoma assets is consistent with our commitment to meet the specifications and performance expectations of our customers throughout North America, said Frank Panzer, president and chief operating officer of SemMaterials. The mid-United States has significant current paving needs - including both maintenance projects and new road construction - and those needs are growing. It is our intention to be ready to meet supply and demand trends.

SemMaterials said that the new terminal 35 miles northwest of Wichita will have at least five employees. SemMaterials owns and operates a total of 62 asphalt plants in the United States and Mexico and has 630 employees.

Panzer said the acquisition includes an asphalt laboratory in Claremore and license rights for numerous patents.