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## Officials mark grand opening of paper-recycling plant

### Governor announces \$7.8 million more toward expansion of I-49 to Arkansas

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The grand opening of Pratt Industries Inc.'s paper-recycling facility at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier was reason enough for the catered celebration held Monday.

Then Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal upped the ante by announcing that more funds will be available for construction of another segment of Interstate 49 north of Shreveport.

Jindal was joined by Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker, Pratt Industries Chairman and CEO Anthony Pratt and James Pannell, president of the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission, for Monday's grand opening.

"My father loved this part of America," Pratt said in a thick Australian accent. "He lived his dreams large and with generosity, and today is a tribute to his leadership and vision."

Of the company's 50 facilities, Pratt said, the one at the local port is its crowning achievement. "Through this mill and the material recovery facility, the citizens of Shreveport and the surrounding areas can play a real part in combating global warming. Recycling is an important but underestimated weapon against climate change."

Glover and Walker then each gave Pratt a key to their respective cities. Walker jokingly pointed out that the Bossier City is bigger than the one given by Glover.

Attendees were treated to a tour of the recycling facility followed by a catered lunch in addition to a live band in an air-conditioned tent set up outside the 212,000-square-foot recycling mill.

Prior to commending Pratt Industries for building its third U.S. recycling mill in Louisiana, Jindal announced that \$7.8 million has been made available for the construction of I-49 between state Highway 2 and U.S. Highway 71. The funds are savings generated from construction of the interstate from state Highway 168 to Mira-Myrtis Road, the governor said.

The total cost to complete I-49 north to Arkansas is estimated at \$600 million. Louisiana needs about \$225 million to finish the job, Jindal said.

After the I-49 announcement, Jindal turned his focus to Pratt Industries.

"Known for being a green company, Pratt Industries will use advanced technology to manufacture environmentally friendly products for the packaging industry," he said. "The facility will produce value-added, green products, which demonstrates how Louisiana's traditional industries are diversifying and adapting to today's competitive marketplace."

The recycling mill represents a \$160 million investment. It employs 120 full-time workers and has a payroll of more than \$6.3 million a year.

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