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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smart Motion Robotics, Inc. of Gilberts, Illinois has announced it will relocate its entire operation to the Sycamore Prairie Business Park in early 2010. In making the announcement, Scott Gilmore, CEO, stressed the importance of the support offered by local taxing bodies in the form of a partial property tax abatement. "We certainly wish to thank the City of Sycamore, the County of DeKalb, the Sycamore Board of Education, the Sycamore Park District, the Sycamore Library Board, the Kishwaukee College Board and the Cortland Township Board for voting to support partial property tax abatements according to the intergovernmental agreement reached in 2005. This assistance will offset some of our upfront costs and will make it possible for us to build a manufacturing facility with a care befitting the community's fine appearance and dedication to quality."

Smart Motion Robotics is an Illinois corporation founded in 1996 that builds robotic case-packing systems typically used in food applications, and robotic palletizing systems. One of the firm's most profitable machines is called the "SmartPacker." This machine was invented and patented in 2006, and is used to pack raw eggs in soft cases for retail sale. The company also makes and markets machines that pack pharmaceuticals, feed bags, candies, etc.

Before making its decision, Smart Motion considered industrial subdivisions in Rochelle and Dixon as well as lots in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park northeast of the corner of Peace Road and Bethany Road in Sycamore. The firm is presently housed in a 10,000 square foot building. The owners will construct a building of about 27,000 to 30,000 square feet with room to expand to a total of 40,000 square feet.

The company presently employs 18 full-time persons, more than one-half of which are women. The projected employment in three years is 26-30 full-time persons. Skilled workers in the plant start at \$40,000 per year (\$19.23 per hour) and the more experienced reach \$75,000 a year (\$36.06 per hour).

Sycamore city manager Bill Nicklas was pleased with the company's decision. "Smart Motion is a good fit for the Sycamore Prairie Business Park and for Sycamore," Nicklas explained. "The firm's good-paying jobs and high-tech manufacturing focus will strengthen the city's manufacturing base and complement the innovative companies which have settled in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park."

In 2005, Sycamore's local taxing bodies partnered with the County of DeKalb and the Kishwaukee College Board to revise a property tax abatement program designed to attract new industrial businesses like Smart Motion. The abatement program offers a range of abatement options from one to three years. While each governmental unit has specific guidelines for determining eligibility, the applicant generally must show how the project will achieve certain of the following objectives:

- A significant increase in industrial valuation and the generation of substantial property tax revenues.
- A diversity of jobs, skills, products and services that will enhance the business climate and result in increased business activity.
- A broadening of the economic base of the area through wages paid or products or services sold.
- New technology in the expansion of existing operations or the development of new operations.
- The creation of professional and skilled employment opportunities.
- An opportunity for local governments to recover local governmental infrastructure costs through substantial tax or user fee contributions.
- A significant contribution to the overall quality of life in the area.

For more information, please contact Sycamore City Manager, Bill Nicklas, at 815-895-4853.