

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anita's Snack Foods breaks ground on \$2 million expansion

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – The **Kingsport Chamber** held a **groundbreaking ceremony** for **Anita's Snack Foods** today on a **\$2 million** expansion at their location at 2300 Tri-Cities Crossing.

The California based company opened their doors in Kingsport in July of 2018. Employment has grown from 20 jobs less than a year ago to **85 jobs** today. They anticipate those numbers continuing to grow.

“We want to continue growing the business in order to supply great tasting products to our customers, grow employment and serve the communities in the Tri Cities area,” Anita's Snack Foods President **Ricardo Alvarez** said.

This expansion will add **40,000 square feet** of additional warehouse space. Anita's currently has two lines operating 5 to 6 days a week. They are installing a third chip line that will be operational by mid to late May of 2019.

“I am happy that the Kingsport Economic Development Board, in conjunction with the City of Kingsport, has been able to work with Anita's Snack Foods to provide them with the much needed expansion of 40,000 square feet of warehouse and refrigeration space,” **Kingsport Economic Development Board** chair **Craig Denison** said. “This allows them to use the freed up space within the existing facility to increase their production capacity to service their customers. They have increased the production output of the facility and increased the number of employees almost from the beginning of taking over this facility and we look forward to the completion of this expansion so that they can continue on this path of growth.”

“It is great for Kingsport to see positive growth in our community,” Kingsport Chamber Board chair **Lori Payne** said. “Anita's Snack Foods is a leader within their own industry, and even more of a leader in our community. We are thrilled for Anita's Snack Foods to grow and expand here in Kingsport. We look forward to seeing their success and growth for many years to come.”