

New United Utility Services Headquarters

By Louisiana Economic Development

NEW ORLEANS—United Utility Services, a portfolio company of Baton Rouge-based Bernhard Capital Partners, announced it is establishing its national headquarters in New Orleans. The firm, a leading utility services provider, looks to build upon the growing impact BCP and its companies, including Lemoine and Epic Piping, have had on the state's economy and infrastructure.

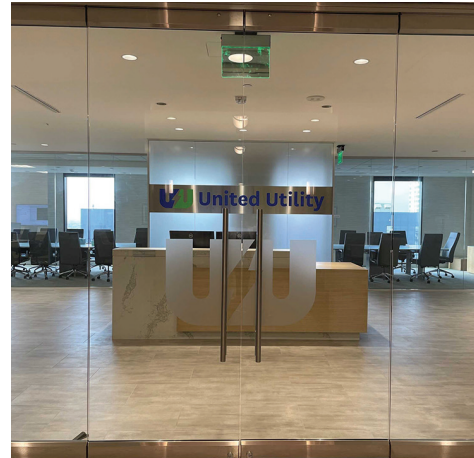
The company is expected to create 141 new direct jobs over the next five years with an average annual salary of more than \$95,000. BCP reports the new headquarters will add to the more than 6,000 Louisiana jobs BCP and its portfolio companies currently support. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in another 167 new indirect jobs, for a total of 308 new jobs in the Southeast Region.

United Utility's move follows Placid Refining's announcement on March 23, 2023, that it is relocating its headquarters from Dallas to Baton Rouge.

"Once again, a growing national company has chosen to locate its corporate headquarters in Louisiana and create good-paying jobs in our state," Governor John Bel Edwards said. "That is a powerful testament to the strength of our business climate and quality of life. Louisiana has the skilled workforce that United Utility needs. This project will benefit Louisiana consumers, workers, and infrastructure for years to come."

Since starting operations in 2018, United Utility has rapidly expanded, acquiring nine top-rated power transmission and distribution providers. The company works to connect customers with a network of service providers for infrastructure and utility needs including distribution, substation, relay system, fiber optics communication, and storm recovery.

"As our company expands, the need arose to establish our headquarters in a location that is easily accessible from existing regional offices and is in close proximity to complementary services and partners," United Utility CEO Ali Azad said. "New Orleans is an ideal location for our company to build a prominent presence within a regional



economy that leads innovation in the utility and energy sector, and within an area that is already home to key partners, such as Entergy."

To secure the project in New Orleans, the state offered United Utility a competitive incentives

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8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, April 27, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the

Federal Contracting: Veteran Small Business Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 12:00 pm–1:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Jo Eckert, 319-362-6405, jo.eckert@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Learn about SBA's new Veteran Small Business Certification program. Certification has been transferred from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to SBA as of January 1, 2023. Certification with SBA allows service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) to compete for sole-source and set-aside federal contracts across the federal government. Certified veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) have additional opportunities to pursue sole-source and set-aside contracts at the Veterans Administration (VA) under the VA's Vets First program. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veteran-small-business-certification-vetcert-program-tickets-619255007397>

CERTIFICATION

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