

# Kodak to expand facility in Weatherford

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**Gov. Mary Fallin speaks Thursday during a ceremony in Weatherford to announce Kodak is adding new jobs at its facility in Weatherford.**

WEATHERFORD — Kodak hosted a ceremony here Thursday for the groundbreaking of its expanded manufacturing facility to accommodate a new product line.

The event featured a ribbon cutting by Kodak CEO Jeff Clarke and Gov. Mary Fallin, with remarks by Flexographic Packaging Division President Chris Payne and Kodak customers.

“Today’s announcement is great news for the Weatherford community,” Fallin said. “This represents the kind of diversity in jobs we are working to bring to the state. We appreciate Kodak’s investment in Oklahoma and are excited about these new jobs coming to Weatherford.”

The theme of the event centered on regeneration and the revitalization and investment of the Weatherford plant in its 50th anniversary year, which was chosen for its strong technical capabilities and existing skilled, tenured workforce, the company said.

The new flexo plate manufacturing line, a sister operation to Kodak’s existing plate manufacturing facility in Yamanashi, Japan, is designed to meet increasing industry demand for higher quality flexographic printed packaging with more cost effective and efficient production processes.

The \$15 million investment represents one of the company’s largest capital investments since 2000 and underscores the ongoing growth and adoption of KODAK FLEXCEL NX Plates that grew 16 percent in 2016 compared to the prior year, a rate four times the projected growth rate of the flexible packaging market itself, according to Smithers Pira.

The new flexo plate line is expected to be in full production by early 2019 and will initially focus on supply of FLEXCEL NX Plates to customers in the United States, Canada and Latin America. The news represents yet another milestone in the company’s ongoing investment in flexographic printing technology worldwide, which includes the recent opening of Kodak’s Flexo Packaging Technology Center in Shanghai in March.