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business

Countertop maker Cambria expands with two new plants

- The Minnesota company opened a fabrication plant in Toronto and bought another in Ohio that will open next year.

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Quartz countertop maker Cambria announced Friday that it is expanding its fabrication operations to Toronto and Ohio to help speed product distribution.

Eden Prairie-based Cambria, which was recently ranked No. 4 on Entrepreneur Magazine's list of the 500 fastest-growing U.S. companies, opened a \$4 million, 68,000-square-foot fabrication plant in Toronto and just bought a 75,000-square-foot plant in Kent, Ohio.

Officials said the Ohio plant will open next year and will help deliver the company's countertops and flooring products to customers in Ohio and Pittsburgh.

In expansion, Cambria will open Toronto, Ohio plants

◀ CAMBRIA FROM D1

The plants join those that Cambria currently operates in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and North Carolina. The additions come on the heels of a \$45 million expansion this year that more than doubled the size of Cambria's main factory in Le Sueur, Minn. — from 145,000 to 325,000 square feet — and added 290 jobs.

The Toronto and Ohio expansions will proceed despite the nationwide slowdown in new home construction, which in many cases has affected sectors such as furniture and home decor. Cambria officials said that product sales are still strong, driven by commercial sales and home remodeling orders.

Cambria uses specialized fabrication machines that apply 30,000 pounds of pressure per square inch to compress quartz chunks and bits into a solid stone finish that is



Stacks of tiles awaited shipment at Cambria's manufacturing plant in Le Sueur, Minn. Cambria makes quartz tiles and countertops.

turned into sinks, countertops, desks and flooring.

Cambria, which began operations in 2001, generated more than \$100 million in sales in 2006.

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