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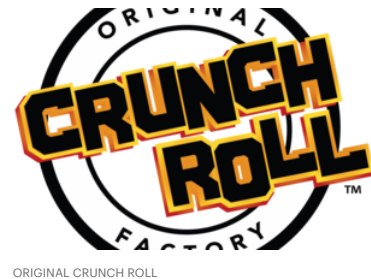
Zach Bohn is a 21-year-old Canisius student. His food manufacturing company has 20 employees and growing

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Zachary Bohn's father started a Hertel Avenue restaurant three years ago and noticed that one item in particular – called a "crunch roll" – was especially popular.

A new company was born.

Since that time, The Original Crunch Roll Factory has been incorporated and purchased a vacant building in Westfield in Chautauqua County, where more than 20 employees produce two "crunch roll" products for more than 600 restaurants and other food service companies.



It formalized an agreement with 7-Eleven that will bring the products to about 600 stores in the northeast, and also inked a deal with Tops Friendly Markets for a new five-pack retail product.

Not bad for a company owned by Zachary Bohn, a 21-year-old Canisius College student who runs The Original Crunch Roll Factory with his father.

"We both see big potential in this business," Zachary Bohn said. "For us to work together side-by-side has been great."

The company has taken advantage of public partnerships, being approved for tax breaks from the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency, low-cost electricity from the New York Power Authority and recent entry into the Start-Up NY tax breaks programs, which established a formal partnership with the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Zachary Bohn says the company's success thus far has provided a three-legged platform for the future. The company will continue to expand sales into individual restaurant and food service customers and seek to expand its retail reach into regional supermarket chains.

Leaders of The Original Crunch Roll Factory also see a strong opportunity in its partnership with 7-Eleven, which could dramatically expand the scope of its business. Bohn said a broader 7-Eleven entry will mean adding a second shift to its factory at 75 Bourne St. in Westfield.

"We initially thought it was going to be a product of restaurants and food service operations," he said. "We didn't realize it would show so much potential as a convenience store item. But with so much interest from 7-Eleven, this is a great avenue for us to sell our product and grow rapidly."

Dan Miner
Reporter
Buffalo Business First

