

# Garfield Hts. recycling firm purchased

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**Plain Dealer Reporter**

Garick Inc., a Garfield Heights company that recycles wood, farm and food wastes into mulch and garden soils, said Thursday it has been purchased by Wisconsin entrepreneur Ken Hendricks.

"Ken is passionate about recycling," said Garick Chief Executive Gary Trinetti. "We are passionate about enhancing people's lives and the planet. That is why he is making an investment in us."

Inc. magazine declared Hendricks, a former roofer whose personal wealth is now estimated at \$2.6 billion, Entrepreneur of the Year in December.

He could not be reached Thursday at his Beloit, Wis., company, ABC Supply. Trinetti said he and his partner, Rick Mahoney, first met Hendricks about four years ago.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Trinetti said he did not expect Hendricks to move the company to Beloit.

Garick has been growing at the rate of 30 percent per year, said Trinetti, through acquisitions and expansions of its facilities. The company treats about 65,000 tons of waste annually that would have gone into landfill, and produces about 250,000 cubic yards of products.

The sale announcement came just a day after Garick said it had purchased Connecticut-based New Milford Farms from Nestle USA. Garick plans to restart the idled operation that once recycled Nestle's production food wastes.

Through its Paygro composting facility near Dayton, acquired in 1998, Garick already handles food waste from the Ohio factories of Dole, ConAgra, Whole Foods and North American Nutrition. It is also negotiating with Honda Motors and some universities to recycle cafeteria wastes. Paygro, founded in 1972, also composts cow manure from the Ohio Feed Lot south of Dayton.

Through its acquisition of Smith Garden Products in Cumming, Ga., in 2004, Garick provides organic-based soils, soil amendments and mulches.

Customers include landscape contractors, garden centers, big-box retailers, golf courses, nurseries, municipal governments and universities.

Consumer products include Black Satin Mulch, Hydrocks soil enhancer, Nature's Helper soil amendment and Moo-Nure organic compost.

Through a partnership with Philadelphia-based Skyland USA LLC, Garick provides the soil substitute for Skyland's green roofs and rooftop gardens.

Trinetti and Mahoney created Garick in 1980.

The name is a combination of their first name. Both Cleveland-born, they met the summer after high school while working for Guy Trinetti & Sons, a construction company owned by Trinetti's father.

Both attended Kent State University and worked for a lumber company before creating a company that recycled lumber waste.