

# NILE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## NILE, INC. ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF FIRM

LJA DISSOLVES AND NILE EMERGES TO DELIVER ARCHITECTURE  
AND ENGINEERING SERVICES TO MULTIPLE MARKETS.

FARGO, ND – Lightowler Johnson Associates, Inc. (LJA), a long-established Fargo-based architecture and engineering firm specializing in hotel design, was acquired and dissolved in late 2019. In its wake emerges a new firm, Nile, Inc., with a modern perspective on established markets that include hospitality, senior living, industrial, municipal, and commercial projects, with goals to delve further into bioprocessing and agricultural industries.

“Thinking back on the history of our team, a lot has changed. Technologies advance, building materials improve, and market demands change. To withstand decades of disruption, you must be built on solid ground. At Nile, that strong foundation is our staff who have moved forward with us and the markets we serve which continue to grow more robust each day,” said Nile President, Nathan Anderson. “Our mission is to apply the collective knowledge of our staff to new market opportunities and shape ideas that result in better buildings, communities, and experiences.”

Under the leadership of firm owner Kevin Biffert, Nile will embrace new technology and modern approaches to project delivery, team organization, and business efficiency. With offices in Fargo, N.D. and Saint Paul, Minn., cloud-based team collaboration will be key in how information is shared and how projects are managed. With technology-focused priorities, innovation-driven projects will be adopted to expand the firm’s market base.

“Nile is a place where ideas will grow and potential will be explored across many landscapes,” said Biffert, “While Nile will maintain market focal areas, we will purposely cultivate a new body of work that drives exciting new technological advancements for larger purposes.”

The work that Biffert speaks of is easily seen in Nile’s newest project, the Grand Farm – an advanced development aimed at creating the world’s first fully autonomous farm near Fargo, N.D. Biffert serves as a collaborative supporter for the project sponsor Emerging Prairie and recently donated 40 acres of land for the project. Civil site planning and schematic design is currently underway at Nile and Grand farm is expected to be fully operational by 2025.

“I see exciting synergies with the staff’s past experience in processing plants (soybeans, ethanol, hemp) and the new Grand Farm project,” said Biffert. “This team has a great experience base to build upon, and I am excited to take the company to the next level by injecting some modern approaches and new opportunities for the business.”

Nile, with 25 employees currently employed between its North Dakota and Minnesota offices, will maintain a one-stop shop for client services with a complete offering of architecture, engineering, and survey services.

“Nile is not the buildings we design, the walls of our offices, or the bodies within it. It is the collective of experiences, ideas and results that draw together,” reflects Anderson. “We are excited by the launch of this bold new company and the forward-thinking projects that will influence how people interact and our communities grow.”

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#### ABOUT NILE, INC.

Established in 2019, Nile is a full service design and engineering firm with offices in Fargo, N.D. and Saint Paul, Minn. It specializes in hospitality markets with additional project work in industrial, municipal, commercial and senior living markets. [www.WeAreNile.com](http://www.WeAreNile.com).

#### ABOUT KEVIN BIFFERT

With degrees from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, Biffert worked at 3M in Wahpeton, N.D., and in 1996 founded Fargo Automation, which builds on autonomous equipment for medical device companies and the pharmaceutical industry. Biffert sold Fargo Automation to German-based Korber Solutions in 2017. Biffert is also a donor and supporter of Emerging Prairie's Grand Farm – a "fully autonomous farm" with a project focus on ecosystem, innovation, makerspace, education, and policy development.

#### ABOUT LIGHTOWLER JOHNSON ASSOCIATES, INC.

Established in 1954, Lightowler Johnson Associates, Inc. (LJA) was a full service architectural, engineering, planning and land surveying firm headquartered in Fargo, N.D. The firm specialized in hospitality and designed over 1,000 hotels nationwide. Other strong markets for the firm included senior living, industrial, and civil engineering. In 2016, they acquired WAI Continuum, a senior housing and healthcare architecture firm based in Saint Paul, MN.

#### ABOUT GRAND FARM

The Grand Farm, located near Fargo, N.D., is establishing an advanced agriculture technology ecosystem with a goal of building a fully autonomous farm by the year 2025. It is led by Emerging Prairie, an organization focused on developing and maintaining an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Fargo-Moorhead community. To learn more about the development, visit their website at [www.grandfarm.com](http://www.grandfarm.com). To learn more about the sponsoring agency, go to [www.emergingprairie.com](http://www.emergingprairie.com).