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Able Seedhouse + Brewery to open in Northeast Minneapolis this fall

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Casey Holley (right) is the founder of Able Seedhouse + Brewing, a new brewery in...
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A new beer company is transforming a former light bulb factory into a 10,000-square-foot brewery and malthouse.

Able Seedhouse + Brewery is going into 1121 Quincy St., which is a part of Hillcrest Development's Highlight Center in Northeast Minneapolis, said founder Casey Holley. The company signed a lease

with Minneapolis-based Hillcrest in November, but did not take full possession of the property until March.

The total cost of the launch is around \$900,000, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The brewery will have a 20-barrel brewing system, a 2,000-square-foot taproom with about 150 seats, and a 1,200-square-foot patio area. However, its most distinctive feature will be its malting works, "the seed house," where Able will process and malt grains sourced from farmers in Minnesota and neighboring states. A percentage of the grain malted there will be used to make beer.

Able hopes to use its malting operation to demonstrate demand for barley and other grains used in craft beverages that often get pushed to the margins by more commonly grown crops like corn and soy. (Summit Brewing Co. CEO Mark Stutrud has said low barley production is one of his top concerns.)

"What we're doing is trying to highlight local grains," said Holley, who will collaborate with barley researchers at the University of Minnesota on the project. "Beer is an agronomic product, so it's super important to work with these farmers to build these small grains markets."

Able has hired Bobby Blasey, most recently the head brewer of Mankato Brewery, to lead its production team. In its first year, the company will make from 2,000 to 3,000 barrels of beer. The company plans to make an IPA, a stout, and a pub table ale, among others.

The brewery is under construction. Able's general contractor is Darren Aamot of FTK Inc. of Rosemount. The company used Tanek of Minneapolis to do some of the design work.

The company hopes to open the facility by fall.

Clare Kennedy writes about food and drink.

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