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MACHINING FIRM MAKES TRANSITION - R&R AEROSPACE

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When Brett Jacobson heard that R&R Precision Machine's founder was thinking of selling the business and retiring, Jacobson was interested in buying the company. The company was a good match for his aerospace background, he said, and there was potential for growth.

He bought the company at 2615 W. Esthner Court from Rick Linnabary on June 25.

He renamed the company R&R Aerospace to reflect a change in ownership, yet retain the R&R name, Jacobson said.

"R&R's reputation in the industry is extremely positive, so I wanted to build on that," he said.

The company machines close-tolerance parts from aluminum and other metals for the aviation industry.

Since the sale, Jacobson and Linnabary have met with customers about the transition.

Jacobson wants them to know that he isn't a financial buyer interested in reselling the business. And there are no outside investors, he said.

"I'm in this for the long haul," he said this week.

The company's goal is to double its annual sales to \$10 million in the next two years, he said. R&R has the room and the equipment to take on additional work.

"My job is to sell that open capacity," Jacobson said.

"I think we can do it."

R&R employs 27 and is hiring. It added four employees in the past three weeks. There are plans to add about five or six more this year.

Jacobson's wife, Karla, is R&R's office manager.

The company operates in about 24,000 square feet of space in two buildings, 16,000 square feet of which are leased.

Its largest customers are Cessna Aircraft, the Triumph Group, Applied Aerospace Structures Corp. and Tect Aerospace.

The company's strengths, Jacobson said, are its quality, service, pricing and quick turnaround.

R&R also is poised to benefit from more use of composites, he said. That gives the company the opportunity to market its ability to machine titanium, used to support composite structures.

Jacobson, an Illinois native, is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in economics.

In 1985, he joined Textron Aerostructures in Nashville before becoming president of Nashville Tempered Glass. He went on to become plant manager of Yamaha's U.S. manufacturing plant outside of Atlanta.

In 2005, Jacobson moved here after being recruited as president of Wichita-based Tect Aerospace. He left Tect in January.

Linnabary began the business in his garage in 1987 after 29 years in the aerospace industry. He moved the company to its present address in 1989 and has expanded several times since then.

Reach Molly McMillin at 316-269-6708 or mmcmillin@wichitaeagle.com.

NOW YOU KNOW

R&R Aerospace

Employees: 27

Sales: \$5 million

Founded: 1987

What R&R does: Makes close-tolerance machined parts, mostly for the aviation industry.

Top official: Brett Jacobson

Major clients: Cessna Aircraft, the Triumph Group, Applied Aerospace Structures Corp., Tect Aerospace

Address: 2615 W. Esthner Court

Phone: 316-942-6699

Web site: www.rrpmi.com

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