

Local helicopter engine overhauler breaks ground on new facility

By Nick Nelson Caller-Times
August 30, 2005

Local helicopter engine overhauler McTurbine Inc. broke ground Monday on a 40,000-square-foot facility that will triple the company's production capacity and make space for 85 new jobs.

McTurbine Vice President and General Manager Ken Essary said the company, which now employs about 65, is constrained by the size of its location on Holly Road. Only 20,000 square feet of the 80,000square-foot Holly Road facility is suitable for use because it is airconditioned and enclosed.

"We have the capacity to add 100 jobs in the next two or three years," Essary said. "We can't do it in our current facility."

El Paso-based contractor SamCorp will build the structure on Junior Beck Drive in the Industrial Technology Park.

McTurbine announced in April that it would add 100 jobs and since has hired 15 employees. The remaining 85 jobs will be filled beginning in March, when construction of the building is set to be complete, Essary said.

To fill those jobs, McTurbine is partnering with Work-Force 1, which trains job-seekers and matches them with employers.

"Our role is going to be to assist McTurbine with their training needs," said Work-Force 1 president Mary Ann Rojas. "They're going to be very highskilled, technical jobs. We've made a commitment to provide some customized training."

The company's mechanics repair engines for some of the largest helicopters in the world. Essary said that with proper training, the local workforce will meet McTurbine's needs.

"We're going to work with Work-Force 1 to develop some training programs so anyone who has the will, a high school diploma and some math skills can go through the training program and get a very good job," he said.

The U.S. Department of State is McTurbine's main customer, but Essary said the company has repaired engines of military helicopters from dozens of foreign countries - from Peru to Pakistan.

McTurbine was founded in Corpus Christi in 1989 by retired Air Force Col. Richard McConn and is a subsidiary of M International, a privately held corporation based in McLean, Va.

Contact Nick Nelson at (361) 886-3678 or [HYPERLINK mailto:nelsonn@caller.com](mailto:nelsonn@caller.com)
nelsonn@caller.com



George Gongora/Caller-Times

David Stout works on the compressor section of a T55 Chinook helicopter engine. Stout works for McTurbine at 1902 Holly Road. The company is breaking ground on a facility that will accommodate more employees.