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McTurbine builds new facility

Company to add about 45 jobs at its \$4 M building

By Fanny S. Chirinos Caller-Times

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McTurbine Inc., a Corpus-Christi based company that overhauls military engines, is building a new facility off Bear Lane and adding about 45 jobs as the company prepares to accommodate more modern engines.

The company contracts with the Department of Defense and private companies to overhaul and repair T-53 (Huey II) and T-55 (Chinook) helicopter engines and components. Its new \$4 million, 40,000-square-foot facility on Junior Beck Drive will contain two engine test cells and provide the space necessary for hiring more mechanics, said Joe J. Guzman, McTurbine's director of operations.

"We have about 80 employees and we plan to grow to about 125 within the next six month to a year, but we needed the space to do it," Guzman said. "We'll also be modernizing our facility to be able to repair modern engines such as the T-700. This facility puts us in a position to diversify the work we do."

Maryland-based AAI Services Corporation announced it planned to purchase the company for \$31 million in cash. AAI provides depot-level services to various military installations and McTurbine seemed a perfect fit to expand and diversify its work, said Sharon Corona, AAI's director of corporate communications.

"We think this new facility is a positive thing and will allow us to expand our work," Corona said. "We do plan on keeping all McTurbine employees."

Guzman said the company plans on doing more work for the depot and bidding for more government contracts. He adds that the company will continue to work with Del Mar College and WorkSource to hire additional employees.

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Joshua Cordova (left) and Steven Alanis install air conditioning ducts along the ceiling of at what will become the new McTurbine Inc. located at Junior Beck Drive. The 40,000-square-foot facility will contain two engine test cells.