

the Chronicle

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Willimantic, Conn.

Eastford firm signs contract with Pratt

March 9, 2015

EASTFORD - The Whitcraft Group recently signed a 10-year, \$234 million contract to supply parts and assemblies to United Technologies' Pratt & Whitney division for its next generation PurePower Geared Turbofan engine family.

"This is a significant milestone for our company" said Colin Cooper, Whitcraft's chief executive officer. "Companies all over the world are competing to be suppliers to this game-changing engine program. Pratt & Whitney has demonstrated the PurePower engine technology's dependability and robustness with more than 14,000 hours of testing, including more than 2,600 hours of flight testing and 27,000 cycles of testing. It is a real testament to our employees and our other stakeholders that Pratt & Whitney chose us to be a major supplier on this critical platform."

Cooper noted sheet metal components and assemblies will be produced at its Whitcraft facility in Eastford. Precision machined parts and assemblies will be produced at its Connecticut Tool facility in Plainville and its Dell Manufacturing facility in Farmington.

"We are pleased to enter into this agreement with Whitcraft Group, a supplier that understands they must meet our cost, quality and delivery requirements in order to be a part of our bright future," said David Emmerling, vice president of strategic sourcing at Pratt & Whitney.

"We have been reconfiguring our operations over the past two years to deliver the high volumes, quality and cost competitiveness that this program requires," said Jeffrey Paul, Whitcraft's president and chief operating officer.

In anticipation of entering into this agreement, the Whitcraft Group already has hired more than 30 new employees in the past two months.

"We are working closely with educational institutions across the state including colleges, community colleges and state technical schools to ensure that our new employees and our incumbent work force have the skills, knowledge and abilities needed remain competitive in this global market in the years ahead," Paul said. "We have made significant investments in our workforce that should pay benefits as we move forward."