

Whitcraft Joins With Private Equity Firm As Aerospace Parts Maker Expands

Courant Staff Report

The Whitcraft Group, an aerospace contractor based in Eastford, has joined with New York-based Greenbriar Equity Group in a deal that will bring in new capital for expansion, Whitcraft said Tuesday.

Whitcraft has grown in recent years and makes hundreds of parts for the Pratt & Whitney F135 engine on the Joint Strike Fighter, and other next-generation commercial and military engines.

Terms of the equity deal, including the percentage of ownership, were not announced.

"To position ourselves to be successful with this influx of business, we joined with Greenbriar so we could acquire new equipment when needed, continue boosting and training our workforce and be sufficiently nimble to take advantage of any acquisition opportunities that might arise," said Colin Cooper, the Whitcraft CEO.

Whitcraft and two affiliated companies — Connecticut Tool & Manufacturing in Plainville and Berkshire Manufactured Products Inc. in Newburyport, Mass. — have more than 500 employees.

Greenbriar, with more than \$2.5 billion of invested or committed capital, has a specialty in global transportation, including aerospace and defense.

"The team at Greenbriar understands our industry," said Jeffrey Paul, Whitcraft's president and chief operating officer, an ownership partner with Cooper.