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## Pratt awards Whitcraft \$234M deal to supply Geared Turbofan parts

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By Howard French

The Whitcraft Group in Eastford has signed a 10-year, \$234 million contract to supply parts and assemblies to Pratt & Whitney for its Geared Turbofan aircraft engines, a company official said Monday.

"This is a significant milestone for our company" Whitcraft CEO Colin Cooper said in a news release. Companies "all over the world" are competing to be suppliers to Pratt on the new engines' production, Cooper said.

"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."

Whitcraft will make sheet metal components and assemblies at its Eastford plant, Cooper said. The company also will make precision machined parts and assemblies at its Connecticut Tool plant in Plainville and its Dell Manufacturing facility in Farmington.

David Emmerling, Pratt's vice president for strategic sourcing, said the agreement includes so-called "One Company" terms and conditions, which allow for "future collaboration through a common contracting approach" between Whitcraft and UTC. As East Hartford-based Pratt increases its production, such agreements will play an important part in increasing production, he said.

Stephen Lindsey, Whitcraft's sales director, said that at peak production in 2020, the new contract is projected to be worth more than \$30 million per year to Whitcraft.

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

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

Whitcraft, a privately held company, has nearly 400 employees among its three plants.