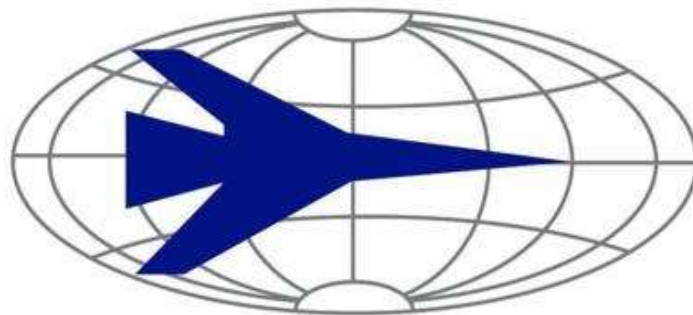


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# Journal Inquirer

## Whitcraft Group buys SW co.

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The Whitcraft Group completed its fourth acquisition of the year this week with the purchase of South Windsor's Evolution Aerospace and its Florida subsidiary, Condor Industries.

The Eastford-based engineered parts manufacturer paid an undisclosed sum to assume control of Evolution's 98,000-square-foot complex on Sullivan Avenue and Condor's 40,000-square-foot site in Fort Lauderdale. The facilities produce machined fittings and tube assemblies for aircraft engines, in addition to precision-engineered components for the power generation and medical industries.

The acquisition brings about 120 Evolution and Condor employees under Whitcraft's umbrella, company officials said.

In a statement, Whitcraft CEO Douglas Folsom described Evolution as a natural partner for his firm, especially as both businesses look to up [investment](#) in the booming aerospace and defense sectors.

“This acquisition supports the Whitcraft mission — Evolution Aerospace clearly shares our values and our markets,” Folsom said. “Specifically, aircraft engine tubing is a natural [extension](#) of products we already manufacture at our facility in Eastford.”

Whitcraft executives said Evolution and Condor will eventually be rebranded under the Whitcraft name, though no titles were made public this week.

Bolstered by massive federal spending on aerospace and defense projects and the commercial maturation of next-generation jet airliners, Whitcraft has been on something of a buying spree for much of the past year.

In October, the company purchased Multax Corp., an Illinois-based operation specializing in [computer](#) numerically controlled machining, also known as CNC machining.

Prior to that, the group snatched up additive manufacturing concern Form 3D of Dover, New Hampshire, and two facilities formerly operated by engineered parts firm LAI International in Scarborough, Maine, and Tempe, Arizona.

Whitcraft, formed in Eastford in 1998, makes specialty sheet metal, flight safety mechanisms, high-precision machined engine components, and other products for clients including Collins Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney, GE Aircraft Engines, Honeywell, IHI Corp., Rolls-Royce, Safran S.A., and Sikorsky Aircraft.

Key projects include Pratt’s high-bypass Geared Turbofan engine; GE’s CFM International Leap engine; Sikorsky’s Black Hawk utility helicopter; and the Joint [Strike](#) Fighter program, which oversees production of Lockheed Martin’s F-35 Lightning II fighter jet for an international consortium headed by the U.S. Department of Defense.

With the additions of Evolution and Condor, the company now employs over 1,250 people across seven states.