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Whitcraft Group adds CNC machining company

By Zachary F. Vasile
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The Whitcraft Group, a subcontractor to Pratt & Whitney and other major aerospace companies, wrapped up its third acquisition of the year on Tuesday with the [purchase](#) of a computer numerically controlled machining business.

Officials with the Eastford-based firm said the addition of Multax, headquartered in Morton, Illinois, will increase Whitcraft's capacity to produce medium and large tight tolerance components, which must be crafted to design specifications within .002 inches, and sometimes less.

No [financial](#) details were disclosed.

In a statement, Whitcraft CEO Douglas Folsom called Multax a “cutting-edge” leader in multiple axis machining — a process in which automated cutting and milling tools move in four or more directions — and said the shop enjoys a sterling reputation for high quality products and on-time deliveries.

“This acquisition is a terrific addition to the process portfolio Whitcraft offers existing and potential customers and will provide many opportunities for synergy with our other operations,” Folsom said.

Multax, which has been in business since 1974, produces complex, tight tolerance, and high temperature-resistant machined components for the aerospace, mining, and power generation industries.

The company operates a 140,000-square-foot facility in Morton, just southeast of Peoria. Whitcraft officials said the plant and its employees will remain at that location.

Bolstered by new demand for aerospace parts as national defense projects such as the F-35 kick into high gear, Whitcraft has been on something of a buying spree.

Earlier this year, the group snatched up additive manufacturing company Form3D of Dover, New Hampshire and two facilities formerly operated by engineered parts firm LAI International in Scarborough, Maine, and Tempe, Arizona.

Those plants specialize in advanced manufacturing [techniques](#) such as laser cutting and electrical [discharge](#) machining.

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

The company has operations in Eastford, Farmington, Plainville, and Southington, in addition to Arizona, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.