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Whitcraft to expand with move to Shelton

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SHELTON — Whitcraft LLC, an Eastford-based manufacturer of jet engine components, has moved into 55,000 square feet on Research Drive, where company officials plan to eventually hire more workers.

The company moved into the building last month, allowing it to consolidate operations previously located in Norwalk, said Whitcraft Chief Executive Officer Colin Cooper.

In January, Whitcraft acquired A. O. Sherman, a manufacturing company that occupied 30,000 square feet spread among four buildings in Norwalk. Those operations are now housed in a single building at 2 Research Drive.

"It became clear we needed more space to accommodate significant anticipated growth," Cooper said.

The Research Drive building in Shelton is one that Whitcraft plans to "grow into," he said, adding that the company plans to add jobs there in the future.

"The company's got a significant amount of potential," he said.

The Shelton site currently has 55 employees, all of whom were retained from the Norwalk facilities.

Company officials chose Shelton because of its relative proximity to Norwalk, allowing Whitcraft to retain most of its employees and reduce their commuting times, Cooper said, adding that only two Norwalk employees opted not to stay with the company.

The company, which has sites in Eastford and Plainville in addition to Shelton, has a total of about 400 employees, he said. The majority — 270 of them — work at the Eastford headquarters.

The Shelton location makes a variety of aerospace components from highly specialized alloys. The Eastford facility primarily makes engine components for military and commercial jets, including engines produced by Pratt & Whitney, General Electric and Honeywell. The Plainville plant makes helicopter rotor and propeller parts, primarily for Sikorsky Aircraft and Hamilton Sundstrand.

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