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AIRLINE INDUSTRY DOWNTURN FORCING CONSOLIDATION OF LYNN FACTORY

Pandemic's impact on air travel caused decline in business

EAST HARTFORD, CT., Jan. 13, 2021 – HORST Engineering, a leading contract manufacturer of precision machined aerospace components, today announced that it is consolidating its Sterling Machine operation in Lynn, Mass to its headquarters in East Hartford, Conn.

“The sharp reduction in air travel has caused airlines to cut orders for new planes,” said Scott Livingston, HORST Engineering’s Chief Executive Officer. “With so many planes parked and less investment in new aircraft, there has been a dramatic decrease in demand for the parts we make.”

“This has been an extremely difficult decision because we had such high hopes for the facility when we acquired it in early 2013,” Livingston added. “No one could have predicted the pandemic’s impact on the airline industry and our economy.”

“Based on current industry data, it is clear that orders for new aircraft are not likely to increase in any significant way for several years,” Livingston said. “We have ample capacity at our Connecticut location and have chosen to consolidate our operations.”

The company says this will be a seamless transition for their customers. Livingston said, “Our customers will not be negatively impacted because we can absorb the work with existing resources, and we have proven systems and processes to maintain our strong delivery and quality performance.”

The company’s employees, customers and suppliers are being notified. Several of the 23 people employed at the 13,000 square foot plant in Lynn will have job opportunities at HORST facilities in Connecticut. The company said it will take a number of months to complete operations in Lynn and they expect the consolidation will not be complete until late 2021.”

Because of the length of time required to conclude operations, the company has not yet determined any specific dates for layoffs.

Livingston said, “The bad news is that the COVID-19 crisis and recession have hurt many small businesses, but the good news is that as we start our 75th year, we have a strong foundation and are well-positioned to make the necessary changes to reposition our business for future success.”

The HORST Engineering Family of Companies was founded in 1946, and is a privately held family owned contract manufacturer of precision machined components for aerospace and other high technology industries. Its core processes include Swiss screw machining, turning, milling, thread rolling, centerless grinding, honing, and assembly. www.horstengineering.com

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