

MANUFACTURERS FLOCK TO GREAT WESTERN

WINDSOR - A new surge of manufacturing interest in the Great Western Industrial Park is under way. A contract with a supplier to Vestas Wind Systems has been signed and two more major employers are said to be near agreements to locate there.

Connecticut-based Hexcel Corp. (NYSE:HXL), the world's largest manufacturer of strong, lightweight composite materials, plans a new plant at the Great Western park to make components for the seven-ton, 140-foot-long wind turbine blades Vestas is now producing there.

In addition, officials at The Broe Group, the Denver-based owner of the industrial park on Windsor's eastern edge, say they are in final negotiations with two more manufacturers and will build several thousand square feet of industrial space to accommodate them.

"People see another building coming

out of the ground and it creates momentum," said Rich Montgomery, vice president of the Great Western Development Co. "It really helps to have a world leader like Hexcel make this choice."

Montgomery said he could not yet identify the two prospective companies prior to signing of contracts, but said their products, unlike Hexcel's, would be unrelated to Vestas' operations.

Great Western plans to build 600,000 square feet of industrial space for lease on a 32-acre tract of land immediately west of the Vestas turbine-blade factory. Hexcel will occupy the first of five "high-cube" industrial buildings planned for the site.

Getting attention

Windsor Town Manager Kelly Arnold said Hexcel's arrival underscores

how Windsor and Great Western



have become employer magnets.

"Great Western is obviously one of the premier multi-use sites in the entire," Arnold said. "As such, its getting attention from these prospects. Any kind of activity there is good for the economy of Northern Colorado."

Publicly traded Hexcel has become a prime supplier to the wind energy market, with world-leading Vestas its primary customer in that sector.

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MANUFACTURERS FLOCK TO GREAT WESTERN (continued)

Windsor officials have said the company will provide about 100 new primary jobs in about 100,000 square feet of space when the plant is operating at capacity. Neither Great Western nor Hexcel would confirm those numbers.

Montgomery said the timetable for bringing the plant into operation would be "similar to what Vestas had." Vestas, with a fast-track construction schedule, opened its blade factory last March one year after its groundbreaking.

The Hexcel plant will produce a structural material called prepreg, a resin matrix that is reinforced with glass fibers to form an ultra-light, super-strong structural material that is a vital component of the Vestas rotor blades.

The plant will mirror one that Hexcel built in Austria to supply the European wind energy market, and another planned for China to serve the Asian market.

Commit to renewables

Growing demand for wind energy, especially in North America, helped drive the company's expanding partnership with Vestas, Hexcel Chairman and CEO Dave Berges said in a statement announcing the Great Western contract.

"With renewable energy targets now set in 30 states, the U.S. is expected to continue to be a strong growth market for wind turbines, and we are pleased to see our customers investing in the region," he said.

The company also makes composite materials for the aerospace, defense, transportation and recreation industries, with components used in jetliners, golf clubs and skis, satellite arrays, Formula 1 race cars, helicopters and new-generation automobiles.

The company has been in the com-



posite materials business for 60 years, and recently shed its electronics and ballistics business units to focus exclusively on composites. Hexcel posted \$1.2 billion in 2007 sales, and has 4,000 employees at manufacturing centers in nine countries.

Hexcel got a big boost this year with a contract to provide composite structural material for the European Airbus 350 series jetliners. The material will account for slightly more than half the weight of each plane.

Hexcel, in a presentation to investment banking company Deutsche Bank in June, said the Airbus contract could generate \$4 billion to \$5 billion in revenue over the life of the contract.



THE GREAT WESTERN
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

252 Clayton St, Denver, Colorado 80206

303-398-0500

www.GreatWesternIndustrialPark.com