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Orion land acquisition positive economic development for Auburn, WA.



New facility means increased services to all communities it serves.



Federal Way, WA -- November 7, 2012 -- While the depressed economy continues to take its toll on communities around the country, particularly as it pertains to record high commercial real estate inventory rates adversely affecting growth, Orion Industries anticipates bringing increased vitality to Auburn, WA. Through the purchase of 6.5 acres of land, Orion will build a 100,000 square-foot facility to house their corporate operations and their growing manufacturing, contact center services, and training and employment divisions.

Orion's manufacturing division, with a diverse customer base in the aerospace, automotive, medical, and marine industries, forecasts continued year-after-year growth due, in part, to Boeing's forecasts and seven-year global backlog of airplane orders. Boeing has been a valued customer and partner to Orion since 1957, and Orion was recently named a Boeing Supplier of the Year out of 17,000 suppliers in 52 countries.

Orion has achieved 20 percent annual growth for nine years and has outgrown its current facility, located in Federal Way, WA, where it currently employs 225 people in three separate facilities.

With the move to Auburn, Orion foresees the ability to accept additional statements of work, meaning adding to its workforce. Based on projections, Orion anticipates increasing its staff to around 265 by the end of fiscal year 2013.

This also puts Orion in the position of helping more people in all of the communities it serves--from Auburn and Federal Way, to Kent, Renton, Tacoma and Seattle. Orion is a social enterprise; funding 95 percent of its mission through the businesses it runs. Orion trains people with barriers to employment and helps them get jobs in the community. Last year, Orion assisted more than 350 people, placing more than 100 of them in community jobs. This resulted in a positive impact to the community of \$3 million.

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“Auburn is a key location for Orion for several reasons. Importantly, it puts us in closer proximity to our largest manufacturing customer, Boeing Auburn, and positions us closer to a growing cluster of aerospace suppliers. Notably, this location also increases accessibility to public transportation for staff and training program participants,” said John Theisen, Orion president and CEO.

Orion credits the success of the land acquisition to a collaboration between Orion, the City of Auburn and Mayor Pete Lewis, King County Executive Dow Constantine, and King County Councilman Pete Von Reichbauer.

KEY FACTS

Location - 6.5 acres of undeveloped property in Auburn on 15th St. NW bordered by the Auburn Airport on the East and a Metro Park and Ride on the South

Developer – Latitude Development, Auburn

Construction – Donovan Brothers Construction, Auburn

Architects – INNOVA, Tacoma

Commercial Real Estate Broker – Coldwell Banker Commercial Danforth, Federal Way

Project Financing – Sterling Savings

Anticipated date of ground breaking- December 2012

Anticipated date of move in- November 2013

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MORE ABOUT ORION

Orion was founded in 1957 as a vocational program for students with disabilities.

Orion is currently headquartered in Federal Way, WA, where they run two businesses: manufacturing and Contact Center Services.

Orion’s manufacturing enterprise supplies precision machined parts and sub-assemblies to aerospace, automotive, marine and medical customers throughout the world. Orion is certified to the international aerospace manufacturing quality standards ISO 9001 and AS 9100.

Orion’s Contact Center Services division has won the Contact Center World 2012 Top Ranking Performers award for Best Contact Center Under 50 Agents, and features an outsource contact center that prepares program participants for careers in the customer contact industry.

In 2007, Orion expanded services to include clerical and customer service training programs. Orion’s Clerical Customer Service Program utilizes self-directed and group instruction to teach Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office, keyboarding, customer service, filing, office machines and office etiquette, and prepares participants for a variety of positions that require clerical and customer service skills.