

# WRIGHT REVIEW:

Providing the latest information on  
business activity in Texas



## TEXAS BUSINESS REPORT

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The **Wright Review: Texas Business Report** includes information on activities of Texas manufacturers and related businesses. Information is provided on new and expanded businesses, acquisitions, contracts, and mergers, as well as bankruptcies, closings, and layoffs. Information is also included on the activities of manufacturers in other states.

Information is gathered from newspapers, trade magazines, business journals, and press releases issued by the companies. Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information included in this issue.

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### **MANUFACTURERS: New and Expanded**

#### **CENTRAL TEXAS**

Chip maker **Cirrus Logic, Inc.** will move its company headquarters into a 135,000-square-foot office building that it will build at 800 W. Sixth Street in AUSTIN. When completed during the summer of 2012, the six-story building will accommodate Cirrus' 350 Austin-area workers, who are currently at the company's headquarters at the Terrace Office Towers near South Mopac and Loop 360. **Cirrus Logic, Inc., 2901 Via Fortuna, Austin, Texas 78746; 512-851-4000; 800-888-5016; <http://www.cirrus.com>.**

**It's 2Cool, Ltd.**, SAN ANTONIO, manufactures Cool Off, a new product that is now being sold at H-E-B grocery stores. Cool Off is a pre-moistened towelette that's infused with natural ingredients, including aloe vera, chamomile flower, lemon peel, fennel, wild yam and tea tree oil. It's designed to provide relief from hot weather, intense physical activity, or the hot flashes of menopause. The product works by pressing the towelettes onto the back of the neck or onto pulse points, and the effect can be refreshed by dampening the area later. It will also be on shelves at TETCO's convenience stores in Texas and Utah, and at selected Stripes convenience stores in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The stores are owned by Corpus Christi-based Susser Holdings Corp. The product also will be sold online starting May 15, 2010, at CVS.com. **It's 2 Cool, Ltd., 130 Stanford, San Antonio, TX 78212.**

AUSTIN-based Nanotechnology developer **Nanotailor Inc.** received \$250,000 from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (TEF). Nanotailor will use the funds to commercialize its single-walled carbon nanotube technology (SWNT), developed through a license agreement with NASA. The technology company discovered a way to manufacture the tubes without using a metal catalyst. Once its ready for distribution, the product will target aerospace, energy, defense, chemical manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and other consumer application companies. Nanotailor is working with Texas State University to develop the process that is also expected to improve quality and lower production costs. **Nanotailor, Inc., 701 Brazos, Suite 500, Austin, TX 78701; 512-334-6064; Fax: 512-727-7548; <http://www.nanotailor.com>.**

AUSTIN-based **Skyonic Corporation** has begun testing its carbonate-mineralization process — SkyMine— at Capitol Aggregates Ltd.'s cement processing facility in San Antonio. The pilot project aims to profitably reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The company hopes to build-out the technology to support large, commercial-scale production for power-generators, refineries, distilleries and other industrial manufacturers. The SkyMine is an alternative to traditional carbon capture and storage methods and can

be retrofitted to existing plant infrastructures. The product also removes heavy metals and "acid rain" gases from coal combustion and smoke stacks, while at the same time creating byproducts that can then be sold. The Department of Energy recently awarded Skyonic \$3 million to support planning for the full-scale Capitol-SkyMine plant. Skyonic expects to begin construction in the third quarter of 2010 and finish by 2012. **Skyonic Corporation, 1221 South Mopac Expressway, Suite 340, Austin, TX 78746; 512-436-9276; Fax: 512-436-9779; <http://skyonic.com>.**

**SPEEDSTREAM.TV**, AUSTIN, is launching its new product, the Broadcast Kit, that combines hardware and software for its network-agnostic, wireless broadcasting tool. It is capable of streaming video content on the Internet 24 hours a day. Under development for two years, the compact and portable system enables users to upload video to the Internet in real time without a Web developer. The system is described as a broadcasting truck in a backpack. The streaming product is manufactured at LEANDER-based **Electronics & Metals Industries Inc.** that can produce 100 per month and is capable of increasing production to 100 per week. **SPEEDSTREAM.TV**, with four employees, plans to sell a standard-definition unit starting at \$15,000 and a high-definition version starting at \$25,000. The systems can run on a battery for more than three hours or be plugged into a wall outlet. **SPEEDSTREAM.TV** plans to initially target television and radio news stations as well as newspapers before developing a smaller and easier-to-use consumer version. **SPEEDSTREAM.TV, 3019 Alvin Devane, Suite 150, Austin, TX 78704; <http://speedstream.tv>.**

AUSTIN-based wholesale clean energy provider **ThermalSoul** is searching for a site to build Austin's first solar thermal power generation facility. The company has other facilities in Mexico. This will be the first located in the U.S. Once the facility is complete, ThermalSoul plans to generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity – or enough to power 7,000 to 9,000 homes. The company will begin hiring for plant development and management, including environmental engineers, construction managers and security personnel. Solar thermal energy is a technology that harnesses energy from the sun to generate heat, or thermal energy. Solar energy is gathered through high temperature collectors and moves through a thermal liquid that stores the heat as energy and uses it to generate electricity. Unlike solar energy, solar thermal stations can generate power in periods of inclement weather or even at night by using the stored thermal heat. **ThermalSoul Austin, 900 S. South Capital of Texas Highway, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78746; 512-961-1889; <http://www.thermalsoul.com>.**

San Marino, California-based **Viral Genetics, Inc.** has been awarded \$750,000 by the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF). The company will be moving into a new 2,000-square-foot center in GEORGETOWN. Viral Genetics Inc. is relocating its research facilities from California to the life science cluster in Georgetown. Viral Genetics will initially start with a small staff in its research facility. Plans are for the company to commercialize its patented processes and ultimately add additional employees in the future. Lead scientist Dr. Karen Newell has joined the faculty of Texas A&M University's College of Medicine and has received a \$750,000 grant to research bio-fuels from the TEF. The \$750,000 grant provides \$150,000 a year for five years. Viral Genetics is developing commercial applications from Newell's research, including potential applications for bio-fuels and drug therapies for HIV/AIDS, Lyme Disease, cancer, strep and staph. **Viral Genetics, Inc., 2290 Huntington Drive, Suite 100, San Marino, CA 91108; 626-334-5310; Fax: 626-334-5324; <http://www.viralgenetics.com>.**

## NORTH TEXAS

**American Standard**, a manufacturer of kitchen and bath products, will move its national distribution warehouse from San Antonio to HUTCHINS. American Standard is leasing a 626,100-square-foot building that will be used as a distribution warehouse for the southern, western, and central regions of the United States. About 75 people will be employed at the facility. The company plans to move in early June 2010. It will consolidate out of a similar amount of space in multiple locations in San Antonio when it relocates to the building at 801 E. Wintergreen Road in Hutchins. American Standard initially considered moving to sites in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and points between. The City of Hutchins gave American Standard a 10-year, 75 percent property tax abatement on the \$13.3 million Intermodal I

building said John Hubbard, executive director of the Hutchins Economic Development Corp. The abatement is expected to calculate to about \$56,000 in annual savings for the company. **American Standard, PO Box 6820, 1 Centennial Plaza, Piscataway, NJ 08855-6820;** <http://www.americanstandard-us.com>.

**LG Electronics** expanded its lease from 100,000 square feet to 165,000 square feet at 2153 Eagle Parkway in FORT WORTH. LG is a manufacturer of appliances, televisions, and mobile phones. **LG Electronics, 1000 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632; 800-243-0000;** <http://www.lg.com>.

**RCL Services Group LP**, which assembles signal components, is benefiting from a 2008 federal safety law that is requiring major railroads to spend money on new signaling equipment. BENBROOK-based RCL Services has been awarded a substantial contract from a large railroad. As a result of the contract, the company has added 100 people in the past few months, bringing the total to 250 employees. RCL will add 150 to 200 more employees by the end of 2010 and another 150 to 200 in 2011. The new employees will be heavy- equipment operators, construction labor, and skilled signal electricians. Most will be doing construction work west of the Mississippi River. During the five-year window in which the safety systems are to be installed, the company will probably work on between 8,000 and 15,000 signals. The systems that RCL assembles help tell engineers about the condition of the line ahead, including how fast to move forward or whether the train must stop. RCL also installs the devices. **For more information, contact: Benbrook Economic Development corporation, City of Benbrook, 911 Winscott Road, Benbrook, TX 76126; 817-249-3000; Fax: 817-249-0884;** <http://www.cityofbenbrook.com>.

A CARROLLTON unit of France's **Schneider Electric** has won two stimulus-related contracts totaling \$41.5 million to increase the energy and water efficiency of city-owned buildings in Houston and federal buildings throughout Texas. The contracts will result in the creation of roughly 650 jobs. The Houston project will save \$1.8 million a year during the 15-year guaranteed term of that \$23 million contract once the work is done in August 2011. The same Schneider unit is doing the work both in Houston and on the federal buildings statewide, and is called the "buildings business" segment. The Carrollton group is in charge of that unit's Americas region. The Houston contract is the second phase of a \$9.6 million deal that Schneider has to make seven buildings in that city more environmentally friendly. The city is supposed to realize annual savings of at least \$719,513 on the phase one work, scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2011. Although Schneider Electric's contract is with the City of Houston, some \$13 million of the pact was funded by the federal stimulus act that was passed in 2009. The federal project will involve work in 14 government buildings totaling 7.3 million square feet. Of those 14 buildings, eight are located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Some \$16 million was funded through the federal stimulus act. Schneider will install solar panels on the roofs of those buildings so they can generate their own electricity from sunlight. **Schneider Electric, 1650 W. Crosby Road, Carrollton, TX 75006; 972-236-0300;** <http://www.schneider-electric.us>.

**Texas Instruments** has begun the second phase of an expansion of its RICHARDSON chip factory. The first phase of the expansion began in October 2009, when the factory was opened. Phase one and two combined will put two-thirds of the 1.1 million-square-foot facility in use, leaving room for even more growth. TI is putting an additional 100 used tools in the Richardson building that it acquired out of bankruptcy from Qimonda North America and Qimonda Dresden, Germany. The Richardson plant is on could have as many as 250 employees by the end of 2010. **Texas Instruments, PO Box 660199, Dallas, TX 75266-0199; 972-995-2011;** <http://www.ti.com>.

## SOUTH TEXAS

**Tyco Flow Control** has begun construction on a \$5 million expansion in HARLINGEN. 33,000 square feet of space will be added to the company's existing 80,000-square-foot facility in the Harlingen Industrial Park. Tyco Flow Control, a business unit of Tyco International Ltd. manufactures valves and controls and distributes products to customers in more than 60 countries. Tyco is consolidating two separate plants.

Once the expansion is completed, Tyco will add 65 jobs to the 120 jobs already in place in Harlingen. The company will be adding new machinists, machine operators and welders. **Tyco Flow Control, 300 Constitution Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; 650-216-1526; Fax: 800-527-5703; <http://www.tyco.com>.**

## **MANUFACTURERS: Other News**

### **CENTRAL TEXAS**

**The Boeing Company** will be providing regular maintenance for additional KC-135 Stratotankers in SAN ANTONIO. A new contract has been awarded by the U.S. Air Force and the San Antonio facility will be providing maintenance to twice as many planes as in the past. A company in Alabama will no longer be providing maintenance. The local Boeing center will need about 90 additional workers between now and August to handle the influx of tankers, but some of those employees may be shifted from other Boeing units. The decision is expected to mean 24 KC-135s a year will be moved to San Antonio for upgrades, up from the 12 that are being inspected and repaired now. The KC-135 maintenance contract is the second-largest contract executed at Boeing's Global Services & Support facility in San Antonio. About 450 workers, almost a third of the total work force at the plant, are involved in upgrades on the plane. <http://www.boeing.com>.

**LDR**, an AUSTIN-based medical device developer, recently completed a 24-month trial on its Mobi-C cervical artificial disc. LDR expects its new spine product to be ready for sale in the U.S. in 2011. About 600 patients completed surgery with the implant that treats severe neck pain. It has been sold in other countries since 2004, and more than 8,000 patients have used it. It will be the first FDA-approved cervical artificial disc approved for more than one placement per patient. <http://www.ldrholding.com>.

**Refinery Associates of Texas Inc.** in NEW BRAUNFELS won a \$253.8 million contract from the U.S. Department of Defense to supply naval distillate fuel. This contract will end April 30, 2011. **Refinery Associates of TX Inc., 256 W Merriweather Street, New Braunfels, TX 78130-4768; 830-620-4166.**

Headquartered in AUSTIN, **Silicon Laboratories Inc.** has signed a distribution agreement with Arrow Electronics, Inc. for Silicon Labs' broad portfolio of mixed-signal products. Arrow will be distributing Silicon Labs' complete product portfolio including the following: •high-performance programmable clock and oscillator solutions; mixed-signal microcontrollers for low power, space constrained and analog-intensive applications; digital isolators, isolated gate drivers and current sensors; sub ghz ism band transceivers for short range wireless communications; and, human interface solutions for touch sense, proximity sense and ambient light sense. Arrow Electronics is headquartered in Melville, New York. <http://www.silabs.com>.

**SolarBridge Technologies Inc.**, an AUSTIN-based developer of module-integrated microinverter solutions that reduce the Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) in solar installations, has received \$15 million in Series B funding. Officials at Austin-based SolarBridge said the capital will enable the company to finalize testing and certification, deploy additional beta sites and ramp up production. The funding comes one month after SolarBridge was awarded \$1.5 million from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund. The company employs 30 workers. SolarBridge is developing a microinverter product for solar panels designed to increase production and reliability as well as lowering installation costs. The company relocated from Illinois in 2009. <http://www.solarbridgetech.com>.

**Valero Marketing & Supply Co.** is being awarded a \$68.3 million contract by the U.S. Department of Defense to supply aviation turbine fuel under the government's Foreign Military Sales program. Valero will supply the fuel through its refinery in Corpus Christi. The contract will end November 30, 2010. Valero is owned by SAN ANTONIO-based Valero Energy Corp. <http://www.valero.com>.

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

National Clean Fuels, San Antonio, has entered into a letter of intent to acquire all of the technology assets of **Biotricity Corporation**, located in HOUSTON,. Biotricity is developing a new technology to use products such as sawdust, wood chips or corn stalks and convert them directly into electricity. National Clean Fuels, Inc. (NACF) commercializes cutting edge clean energy technologies. <http://www.biotricitypower.com>; <http://www.nationalcleanfuels.com>.

Headquartered in DALLAS, **Flowserve Corporation** is a provider of flow motion and flow control products and services. The company produces engineered and industrial pumps, seals and valves. Flowserve has received a multimillion-dollar order from China Nuclear Power Engineering Co. for main steam isolation valves (MSIVs) and main feedwater isolation valves (MFIVs) and feedwater motor-operated valves. The valves were purchased for use at Taishan Units 1 and 2, Chinese EPR (CEPR) pressurized water reactors that are currently under construction in Guangdong Province, China, and scheduled for commercial operation in 2013 and 2014, respectively. <http://www.flowserve.com>.

HOUSTON-based **Oxane Materials Inc.** is commercializing nanotechnology-enhanced propping agencies for the oil and gas industry. Products include OxFrac and OxBall, which help to enhance production while reducing the environmental impact of the operation. Oxane has secured \$11.4 million in a round of funding. <http://www.oxanematerials.com>.

Headquartered in HOUSTON, **Sharps Compliance Corp.**, a provider of cost-effective management solutions for medical waste and unused dispensed medications generated outside the hospital and large healthcare facility setting, has created a patent-pending GREEN Waste Conversion Process™. Its Sharps Disposal by Mail System® will be renamed to reflect the value of recovering and repurposing (versus disposing) medical waste. Used needles, syringes, lancets and other medical waste will be recovered, transported and repurposed using the new Sharps Recovery System™, or the TakeawayRecovery System™, rather than being treated and compacted for depositing in landfills. The Sharps Disposal by Mail System has pioneered and redefined the way medical waste generated outside the hospital setting is collected, transported and treated. The system consists of a variety of container sizes and return packaging with pre-paid postage to the Company's treatment facility. Sharps' patent-pending GREEN Waste Conversion Process results in a new product called PELLA-DRX™, which is a clean, raw material used in the manufacture of industrial resources. PELLA-DRX is ideally suited for energy intensive industries such as cement, lime, steel and power plants. The process renders the processed materials with sterility equivalent to sterile medical instruments. Sharps is a leading full-service provider of cost-effective management solutions for medical waste as hypodermic needles, lancets and unused dispensed medications generated outside the hospital and large healthcare facility setting and for governmental and commercial emergency preparedness programs. <http://www.sharpsinc.com>.

HOUSTON-based **Teton Buildings, LLC** and Porta-Kamp, a Teton Buildings company, Teton/Porta-Kamp will supply remote workforce temporary and permanent living quarters in Alaska, South America and in the U.S. for major international oil companies. The buildings include sleeping rooms, kitchen facilities, dining halls, recreation facilities, offices, and medical facilities, as well as, sewage and water treatment plants. Thousands of workers, technicians, and management teams will be housed on some of the largest oil exploration, production, and pipeline projects in the world. <http://www.teton-buildings.com>.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ACTIVITY

### CENTRAL TEXAS

Computer hardware tester **BreakingPoint Systems Inc.**, AUSTIN, has raised a \$5 million round of capital. BreakingPoint develops equipment designed to uncover cyber-infrastructure vulnerabilities. The company employs about 75 local workers in AUSTIN. <http://www.breakingpointsystems.com>.

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.** says it plans to hire 275 home mortgage lenders for its Texas branches in the next six months. That includes 125 new hires in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition to its 125 new hires in North Texas, Chase aims to add 100 mortgage lenders in Houston and 25 each in SAN ANTONIO and AUSTIN. Statewide, Chase has 613 bank branches. <http://www.jpmorganchase.com>.

Headquartered in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, **Kohl's Department Stores** opening a new customer operations center at 10000 Rogers Run in SAN ANTONIO. Expected to open in July 2010, the 102,000-square-foot, two-story facility will serve Kohl's Charge customers and Kohls.com customers nationwide. Kohl's currently operate a customer operations center and a distribution center in Corsicana. Hiring for the facility is scheduled to begin in June 2010. Kohl's expects to hire approximately 200 associates when the facility opens and ultimately create more than 1,000 jobs over the next three years. Kohl's is a family-focused specialty department store offering moderately priced, exclusive and national brand apparel, shoes, accessories, beauty and home products. <http://www.kohls.com>.

**Sprint** is hiring 100 workers for its TEMPLE call center. The call center handles multiple business lines, including account services, finance and business care. <http://www.sprint.com>.

## NORTH TEXAS

**Capital One Financial Corp.** will be laying off 180 people in Laurel, Maryland, and 43 people in Bethesda, Maryland, beginning July 1, 2010, and moving the jobs to PLANO. The credit card company and bank is moving the majority of its mortgage servicing and default operations and some of its mortgage originations work to Texas. Capital One is based in McLean, Virginia. <http://www.capitalone.com>.

**Citrus Energy** will occupy 10,093 square feet in the Hall Office Park at 2600 Network Boulevard. Citrus Energy has been in business since 1989 and has operations in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. The company has gas leases on about 20,000 acres in the Fort Worth area. <http://www.citrusenergy.com>.

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.** says it plans to hire 275 home mortgage lenders for its Texas branches in the next six months. That includes 125 new hires in the DALLAS-FORT WORTH area. In addition to its 125 new hires in North Texas, Chase aims to add 100 mortgage lenders in Houston and 25 each in San Antonio and Austin. Statewide, Chase has 613 bank branches. <http://www.jpmorganchase.com>.

**Roofing Supply Group, LLC**, Dallas, has purchased the assets of Northwest Roofing Supply, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which is the roofing division of Northwest Building Supply. Northwest Roofing Supply is a wholesale distributor of roofing supplies such as shingles. The roofing division employs approximately 35 individuals, all in Oklahoma. There will be no layoffs in connection with the transaction. Northwest Building Supply sells millwork, granite, flooring materials, and cabinets. <http://www.roofingsupplygroup.com>.

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

HOUSTON-based **Calpine Corp.** is purchasing Pepco Holdings Inc.'s wholesale electricity plants. The purchase includes 18 operating plants and one that's under construction. Calpine, which has 76 plants in Texas, California and 15 other states, will gain capacity in the Mid-Atlantic region. <http://www.calpine.com>.

A joint venture between THE WOODLANDS-based **Chicago Bridge & Iron Co.**, WorleyParsons Europe Ltd., and Aker Engineering & Technology AS has been awarded a \$293 million contract from Shell Development Kashagan BV for Phase II of the full-field development of an oil field in Kazakhstan. The front-end engineering and design services contract replaces an early, smaller contract awarded at the end of 2008, and includes work for onshore and offshore facilities and pipelines in the Kashagan field. The joint venture, K-WAC Ltd., expects to complete the project by the second quarter of 2011. <http://www.cbi.com>.

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.** says it plans to hire 275 home mortgage lenders for its Texas branches in the next six months. That includes 125 new hires in the DALLAS-FORT WORTH Area. In addition to its 125 new hires in North Texas, Chase aims to add 100 mortgage lenders in HOUSTON and 25 each in San Antonio and Austin. Statewide, Chase has 613 bank branches. <http://www.jpmorganchase.com>.

Constellation Energy, Baltimore, Maryland, has signed an agreement with HOUSTON-based **Navasota Holdings** to purchase two natural gas combined-cycle generation facilities in Texas. The transaction includes the Colorado Bend Energy Center, a 550-megawatt facility near Wharton and Quail Run Energy Center, a 550-megawatt facility near Odessa. Navasota Energy Partners LP is a Houston-based energy development and asset management company that builds and manages power plants throughout the state of Texas. Constellation Energy is a supplier of energy products and services to wholesale and retail electric and natural gas customers. <http://www.navasotaenergy.com>.

## **BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN OTHER STATES**

**Acticut International AB**, an acoustics and vibration-solution firm whose current corporate headquarters is located in Falkenberg, Sweden, is moving its worldwide corporate office to FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS. Acticut will perform research and development, sales and marketing, and manufacturing from its Fayetteville base. The company is expected to employ a staff of about 10 in its first year, with a possibility of growing to 20 or more in its second year. Acticut's core business is in the field of active vibration control. One of its systems is designed to reduce or eliminate vibrations in metal cutting applications. The system also reduces noise levels and waste. Plans also are in the works for Acticut to introduce a product that create 3D sound in a single speaker that could be used at concerts, movie theaters and in educational settings. Some of Acticut's products are: Acticut® Smart Cutting: Vibration free tool holders, a new era for metal cutting; Acticut® Smart Monitoring: Robust monitoring systems, helping in receiving feedback on the production and machine quality; Acticut® Tuned Dampers: Products helping to dampen vibrations that are not directly related to the holder; and, Add-on Products: Clamping devices, anti-vibration gloves and system solutions. **For more information, contact: The City of Fayetteville, Arkansas, 113 West Mountain Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701; 479-718-7600; <http://www.accessfayetteville.org> or Acticut International AB, Gjuterivägen 6, 31132 Falkenberg, Sweden; +46 346 713030; Fax: +46 346 13333; <http://www.acticutinternational.com>.**

Buena Park, California-based **Awesome Products Inc.** is expanding its operations in WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS, by adding more than 700,000 square feet and about 200 manufacturing and distribution jobs. The company is investing about \$40 million in the project. Awesome, which currently employs 80 in West Memphis, manufactures its own brand of cleaning products, including bleach, detergent, carpet, window and all-purpose cleaning solutions. It sells its products primarily to Dollar Tree, Family Dollar and Dollar General stores, as well as some private label manufacturers. The company originally had 83,000 square feet in West Memphis, but is in the process of adding 110,000 square feet of manufacturing space to the original facility on Jefferson Avenue. That construction will be completed by May 15. Construction on a 425,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and 209,000-square-foot warehouse on 40 acres on Broadway will begin in June 2010. That project will be completed in eight months. The company's 500,000-square-foot primary manufacturing plant is located in California with distribution out of Patterson, New Jersey. **Awesome Products Inc., 110 E. Jefferson Avenue, West Memphis, AR 72301; 870-702-6959; <http://www.lasttotallyawesome.com>.**

The **Cooper Tire and Rubber Co.** plant in TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS, is hiring 200 new workers. Findlay, Ohio-based Cooper Tire's Texarkana facility has about 1,500 employees and makes 450 different types of tires for passenger cars and light trucks. The plant picked up about 75 tire models when Cooper closed its Albany, Georgia, plant. **Cooper Tire and Rubber Co., 3500 Washington Road, Texarkana, AR 71854; 870-773-4502; <http://www.coopertire.com>.**

**UPDATE: Hino Motors Manufacturing U.S.A., Inc.** has dedicated its new truck frame rail line at its plant in MARION, ARKANSAS. The frame rail line includes a series of machines that form 600-pound steel plates that are up to 36 feet long. One machine bends up the sides lengthwise, another takes out any bows or other deformities. A laser drills up to 246 holes so the rest of the vehicle can be fixed to the frame. Machines blast the rails smooth then paint and bake them. The pieces, formed from metal

supplied by U.S. Steel, are hoisted by heavy-duty straps and moved by overhead conveyors. The finished rails are trucked to Williamston, West Virginia, where all Hino trucks to be sold in the U.S. are assembled, and to a plant in Ontario, Canada. Hino closed its Long Beach, California, parts factory about a year-and-a-half ago. The company moved frame rail manufacturing equipment from that plant to Marion. The new line is running two shifts and eventually will have 25 employees. Production started six weeks ago and nine employees have been hired so far. **Hino Motors Manufacturing U.S.A., Inc., Arkansas, Stamping & Component Manufacturing, 100 Hino Boulevard, Marion, AR 72364; 870-702-3000; Fax: 870-735-3333; <http://www.hinointl.com>.**

LM Glasfiber, an international wind blade manufacturer based in Denmark with a plant in LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, has changed its name to **LM Wind Power (USA), Inc.** The move is part of a complete update to the firm's brand and corporate identity. The firm opened its Little Rock operations in 2008. **LM Wind Power (USA), Inc., Regional Office Americas, 8000 Frazier Pike, Little Rock, AR 72206; 501-801-6300; Fax: 501-801-6789; <http://www.lmwindpower.com>.**

Roofing Supply Group, LLC, Dallas, has purchased the assets of **Northwest Roofing Supply, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**, which is the roofing division of Northwest Building Supply. Northwest Roofing Supply is a wholesale distributor of roofing supplies such as shingles. The roofing division employs approximately 35 individuals, all in Oklahoma. There will be no layoffs in connection with the transaction. Northwest Building Supply sells millwork, granite, flooring materials, and cabinets. **Northwest Roofing Supply, Inc., 5535 NW 5th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73127-5811; 405-946-0500.**

**Pinnacle Frames & Accents**, headquartered in Austin, Texas, will be adding 30 employees to its POCAHONTAS, ARKANSAS, plant in exchange for receiving nearly \$300,000 worth of grants for renovations to its warehouse. The company manufactures picture frames for retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Rite Aid, and Target. The grants will be used to repair the roof of the company's 300,000-square-foot structure that has been leaking, and to repair its 60-space parking lot. The city of Pocahontas agreed to spend \$40,000 on the parking lot and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission agreed to give the company a grant of \$250,000 to repair the roof. The state agreed to provide money if the company added jobs. Workers are being hired at the plant that already has 200 employees. All of the repairs should be completed by July 2010. The company produces about 35,000 frames annually. Pinnacle Frames also has a distribution center in Pocahontas. **Pinnacle Frames & Accents, 2606 Highway 67 South, Pocahontas, AR 72455; 870-892-5227; Fax: 870-892-3959; <http://www.pinnacleframe.com>.**

**UPDATE:** Startup automaker **V-Vehicle Co.** has renewed its lease for a vacant manufacturing plant in MONROE, LOUISIANA. V-Vehicle is making a second attempt at getting a federal Energy Department loan to manufacture a fuel-efficient vehicle. It is leasing the now-vacant Guide Corp. plant that once made vehicle headlights. The company has revealed few details of its vehicle, citing competitive concerns. The federal government rejected V-Vehicle's first application for \$321.1 million in loans, saying the company needed to come up with an additional \$100 million of private investments and credit lines. <http://www.vvehiclelouisianajobs.com>.

**UPDATE:** The **Welspun Tubular LLC** pipes plant in the Port of Little Rock, Arkansas, is preparing to increase production, operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and hire 100 workers. Some workers for the 24-7 production are already being trained during existing shifts. The 24-7 move should be completed in 4-6 months. An official announcement about an expansion will take place in mid-May 2010. In November, Welspun said it planned for operations to go 24/7 by the end of the first quarter 2010, with an annual production goal of 350,000 metric tons by the end of 2010 and a top-end capacity of 400,000 metric tons. At the same time, the company added a third eight-hour shift to both the five-day work week at its spiral-welded pipe plant and the six-day work week at its pipe coating plant. The 400,000-square-foot facility at the Little Rock Port, the company's first outside of India, employs about 400. In January 2010, Welspun acquired the 44-acre Wheatland Tube & Conduit property at 8200 Frazier Pike, also in the Port of Little Rock. **Welspun Tubular LLC, 200, Ridgeway Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205; 501-664-6232; <http://www.welspun.com>.**

**LOUISIANA LAYOFFS/CLOSINGS**

A parts shortage has forced **General Motors Inc.** to extend production downtime at the SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, facility by an additional week. The plant was already on a planned shutdown. The additional downtime will allow GM to work with its supplier to resolve the shortage and ensure the issue does not impact product quality. GM plant employees will return to work May 3, while third-shift operations will begin at its normal start time May 2. <http://www.gm.com>.

**Stealth 4X4 Manufacturing LLC**, a manufacturer of electric utility vehicles, is moving the company and its jobs from WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA, to Georgia by mid-June 2010. Stealth has about 50 employees at its 82,000-square-foot facility at the Ouachita Industrial Park. **Stealth 4X4 Manufacturing LLC, 281 Huey Lenard Loop, West Monroe, LA 71292; 318-397-2588; Fax: 318-397-2590; <http://www.stealth4x4.com>.**

**OKLAHOMA LAYOFFS/CLOSINGS**

**UPDATE:** A 250-acre site on the south side of OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA, remains vacant despite plans for a recycling and manufacturing center that promised up to 1,400 jobs. Destin, Florida-based **Waste Not Technologies LLC** has not begun construction on a proposed \$150 million industrial park where it would turn residential and commercial trash into a variety of products. Officials of Waste Not Technologies said they are still trying to secure waste contracts with cities in the region around Okmulgee. The project was announced in early November 2009, and local economic development officials have been working on a land deal with Waste Not Technologies. The property, owned by the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, is the site of a former tire plant. Waste Not Technologies had hoped to begin construction on the project by the end of 2009. Initially it was held up by a creek running through the property, but the plan has been redesigned to accommodate the creek. According to the company's initial announcement, the facility would process about 1,000 tons of trash a day and turn it into recycled products such as plastic pallets, railroad ties and insulation. Waste Not has not begun work at two of three other sites announced as part of the same program. Those sites are located in Hartford, Michigan, and Herington, Kansas. The company did host a groundbreaking for a site in Manchester, Kentucky, in December 2009. **For more information, contact: John D. Robertson, Director, Okmulgee Area Development Corporation, PO BOX 250, Okmulgee, OK 74447; 918-758-1131; Fax: 918-758-1176; <http://www.okmulgeonline.com>.**

**LAYOFFS/CLOSINGS/BANKRUPTCIES****CENTRAL TEXAS**

**American Standard**, a manufacturer of kitchen and bath products, will move its distribution warehouse from SAN ANTONIO to Hutchins. American Standard is leasing a 626,100-square-foot warehouse/distribution building that will be used as a distribution center for the southern, western and central regions of the United States. Approximately 75 persons will be employed there. The company plans to move in early June 2010. It will consolidate from a similar amount of space in multiple locations in San Antonio when it relocates to the building at 801 E. Wintergreen Road in Hutchins. **American Standard, PO Box 6820, 1 Centennial Plaza, Piscataway, NJ 08855-6820; <http://www.americanstandard-us.com>.**

**Aviat Networks Inc.**, which until recently was known as Harris Stratex Inc., plans to shut down its SAN ANTONIO manufacturing and return-and-repair operations at its 5757 Farinon Drive operation. The 96 employees who will lose their jobs at Aviat's 130,000-square-foot San Antonio plant produced microwave radios for cellular phones and public-safety networks. The company will begin the shutdown on June 1, 2010. The Morrisville, North Carolina-based company is a global supplier of network solutions and network-management software. Aviat will continue to have operations in San Antonio, including its systems integration, order management, supply chain, sales and services, technical assistance center, and customer training center. Aviat will also employ other support staff, such as finance and human resources personnel. The company is increasing the amount of manufacturing that is being outsourced to other companies. **Aviat Networks Inc., 5757 Farinon Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78249; 210-561-7300; Fax: 210-561-7499; <http://www.aviatnetworks.com>.**

**SLM Corp.**, a student loan company, will cut 500 call center jobs in KILLEEN this year, and 2,000 more in other states, as it exits the federal student loan business. Congress earlier this year ended the role of private companies as middlemen in distributing federal student loans. The government expects to save \$60 billion in fees it had been paying private companies to process federal student loans. Sallie Mae, as SLM is known, will continue to process private student loans. The company originated \$840 million in private loans in the first quarter, compared with \$1.5 billion in the year-ago quarter. SLM call center employees in Killeen and Panama City, Florida, will lose their jobs in 2010. Other call centers will close in 2011. While Sallie Mae will no longer originate federal loans, it is one of four companies that will continue to handle payments and collections on those loans. <http://www.salliemae.com>.

**Unisys Corp.** will cut 229 jobs in AUSTIN and will shut down its Austin operations in phases, starting in June and continuing through September 2010. Unisys has a managed service center in Austin that does IT support. It is going to be closed effective September 30 and that work is being moved to the company's other centers in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Rochester, New York. Some employees will be given the opportunity to transfer to other locations. The company, based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, provides technology and information technology services. Its managed services operation is based at 5700 S. Mopac Boulevard. The jobs being cut include tech support and help desk positions. <http://www.unisys.com>.

## NORTH TEXAS

Electronic payment service provider **BillMatrix Corp.**, an affiliate of Fiserv, will cut 108 positions at its call centers in DALLAS and IRVING. 71 employees will lose their jobs at the Dallas center that is located at 8750 N. Central Expressway. It will close on June 24, 2010. The Irving call center is expected to close around June 17, 2010, and 37 workers will lose their jobs. <http://www.billmatrix.com>.

DALLAS-based **Hostess Brands Inc.** plans to lay off 100 employees and close its Akron, Ohio, bread bakery, which has been in operation since 1923. Changes in market conditions, including declining bread purchases by consumers in the area, made it necessary to consolidate its Northwood, Ohio, bakery and close the Akron bakery, effective June 25, 2010. The age of the facility also would have made it difficult and expensive to modernize production equipment at the plant. The company also employs about 400 sales and retail personnel in the region, but those jobs will not be affected by the bakery closing. Hostess Brands bread products will be produced in the Northwood bakery and transported to the Akron area. Snack cake products already are being delivered to the Akron area from other plants in Ohio and neighboring states. **Hostess Brands Inc., 6031 Connection Drive, Irving, TX 75039; 972-532-4500; Fax: 972-892-7694; <http://www.hostessbrands.com>**.

**Ricoh Americas Corp.**, which sells and provides services for imaging equipment such as printers and copiers, plans to close an IRVING location. Fifty-three employees will be affected by the June 4, 2010, closing. <http://www.ricoh-usa.com>.

FRISCO-based construction services firm **Rodman L.L.C.** is closing its doors and laying off 242 employees on April 30, 2010. Rodman's services include excavation, utilities, paving, retaining walls, and landscaping. **Rodman L.L.C., North Texas Operations, 6831 Ash Street, Frisco, TX 75034; 972-335-4510; Fax: 972-335-4844; <http://rodmancompanies.com>**.

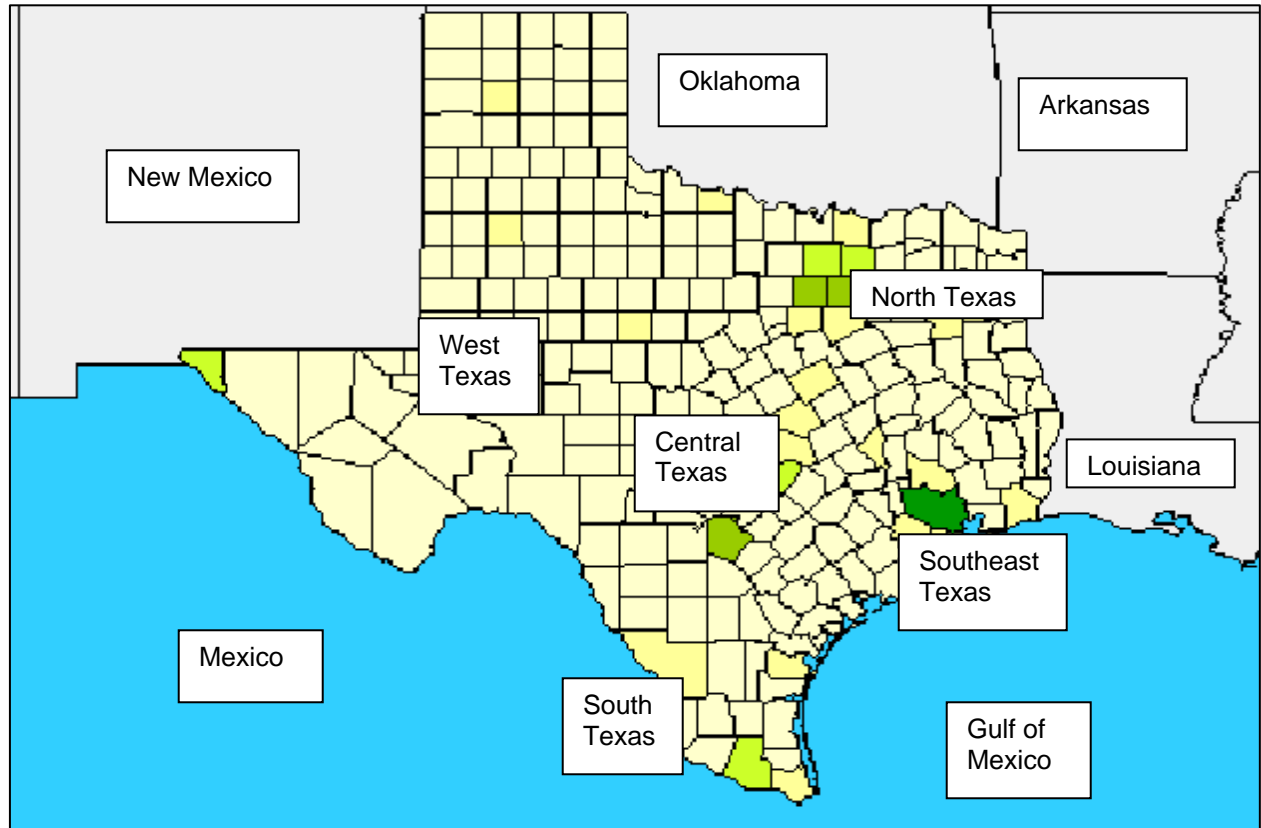
## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

**Beckman Coulter, Inc.** develops, manufactures and markets products that simplify, automate and innovate complex biomedical testing. Beckman Coulter has filed a WARN notice with the Texas Workforce Commission that the company will be laying off 30 employees in WEBSTER on June 30, 2010. **Beckman Coulter, Inc., PO Box 8000, Brea, CA 92822-8000; <http://www.beckmancoulter.com>**.

The **DuPont Performance Elastomers L.L.C.** plant on Texas 347 south of BEAUMONT closed April 20, 2010, after an extension of almost a year since the company first announced that it would close the facility. Eighty-one people worked at the unit that makes a chemical called hypalon which is used in automotive hoses and roofing liners. The elastomers plant will be decommissioned and dismantled. DuPont operates an aniline unit at the industrial park site that is now owned by Lucite International. The aniline plant produces an intermediate chemical that is used in making foams used in vehicle dashboards and dyes. The aniline plant employs about 80 people. The DuPont Sabine River Works in Orange employs about 850 people. That plant makes chemical polymers used in the manufacture of packaging and consumer medical products. **DuPont Performance Elastomers L.L.C., 300 Bellevue Parkway, Suite300, Wilmington, DE 19809; 302-792-4000; Fax: 302-792-4450; <http://www.dupontelastomers.com>.**

Information in the *Wright Review: Texas Business Report* is sorted into four major topics, and, within each topic, the companies are grouped into five geographic regions in Texas. The topics included are: Manufacturers: New and Expanded; Manufacturers: Other News (includes contracts, mergers, acquisitions); Miscellaneous Business Activity (includes wholesalers/distributors, transportation-related businesses, and developers); and Layoffs/Closings/Bankruptcies. Information on business activity outside of Texas is also included in: Business Activity in Other States and Business Activity in Mexico

## Geographic Areas



(Shaded areas represent major population centers)

### Texas regions with their component metropolitan areas and counties:

- CENTRAL TEXAS** (Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan, Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood, San Antonio, and Waco metropolitan areas and surrounding counties)
- NORTH TEXAS** (Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Longview, Sherman-Denison, Texarkana, Tyler, and Wichita Falls metropolitan areas and surrounding counties)
- SOUTH TEXAS** (Brownsville-Harlingen, Corpus Christi, Laredo, and McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr metropolitan areas and surrounding counties)
- SOUTHEAST TEXAS** (Beaumont-Port Arthur, Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, and Victoria metropolitan areas and surrounding counties)
- WEST TEXAS** (Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, and San Angelo metropolitan areas and surrounding counties)