



Perris News

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Perris Welcomes Stretch Forming Corporation

Work crews are racing to clear a warehouse that soon will become home to a world-class aerospace corporation that Perris officials say will bring high-paying jobs and international recognition and prestige to the City.

Executive of Stretch Forming Corporation said they are delighted to relocate to the City and consolidate two existing facilities into the former home of a recreational vehicle manufacturer that went out of business about two years ago.

They praised the City's Redevelopment Agency and City Council for making available \$75,000 to help them move to their new location at 804 Redlands Boulevard and said they consider the site the perfect place to expand their business.

The company purchased the 96,000-square foot building on the 14-acre site for \$3.7 million. City officials say Perris will realize hundreds of thousands of dollars in the near future as a result of property and sales taxes generated by the business.

Stretch Forming fabricates the fuselages, leading edges, cowlings, spars and ribs of commercial and military aircraft. The work is highly skilled and the company boasts extremely rare presses used to fabricate aerospace components for industry leaders like Boeing, Lockheed and Sikorsky.

The company, which employs about 70 workers now, would like to expand to 250 in the next several years. Workers at Stretch Forming Corporation can earn from \$25 to \$165 per hour.

"We are 100 percent happy to be in Perris," said Brian Geary, president of Stretch Forming, as he walked through the company's new warehouse which is expected to be cleared by the end of October. "What's not to like about it? If we had drawn up plans for our new location, we could not have done any better. This is the place we intend to make our home."

The company will be closing its two locations in Murrieta and Rialto as it moves to Perris. Geary said Stretch Forming looked at several other cities—Temecula, Pomona, Ontario, and San Bernardino—before choosing Perris. He singled out Michael McDermott, Redevelopment and Economic Development Manager, and Rene Avila, Assistant Director of Development Services, for special thanks in helping bring the business to Perris.

"They were very helpful and cooperative," he said. "They made the transition painless. The City sold itself." Geary said the company will go full bore once it gets running in Perris, probably by the end of the year. He said the aerospace and aviation industries have a pent-up demand for new aircraft. Among the models Stretch Forming provides parts for include the C-5 and C-130 military transports and the 747, 767 and 777 commercial jetliners.

They also sell to business carriers like Cessna and Gulfstream.

The company's new location was built in 2004 and comes complete with skylights, which should help reduce energy costs. The natural lighting also fits in with Perris' ongoing commitment to sustainable development. Perris officials are ecstatic.

City Councilman Al Landers said that by attracting the company, Perris has removed an abandoned warehouse which had become an eyesore and replaced it with a business that will contribute to the City's tax base. Best of all, other companies that do business with Stretch Forming, such as machine shops, fabricators and paint contractors, the City could also attract those types of industries.

"A lot of companies would love to have this building," Landers said during a recent walk-through. "I am proud to be part of a City Council that is committed to bringing jobs to this community. There are few cities as aggressive and progressive when it comes to economic development."

Landers said the City's contribution to relocating Stretch Forming is money well spent. He expects many of the employees the company is expected to hire will live in Perris, further contributing to the City's economic base.

"During these difficult economic times, the City of Perris does not rely on luck to bolster its economy," he said. "I give kudos to our staff for making this happen. We make our own luck."

City Councilman Mark Yarbrough called the company a "world-class technology leader" which will serve to attract other high-skilled labor to Perris.

"Any city in the country would love to have them," he said. "This is one of the few companies in the world that does this sort of manufacturing. They have located to the heart of the Inland Empire to consolidate their operation. This shows the City of Perris is capable of getting world-class facilities and labor to relocate here. It takes the City to the next level. It raises our profile. These are the big boys."

City Councilwoman Joanne Evans said the company's expansion plans are music to the ears of elected leaders.

"The big thing is bringing jobs to Perris," she said. "We need all the business we can get."

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Members of the City Council and Redevelopment Agency present a check to Stretch Forming Corporation to help the company relocate to Perris



City Councilman Al Landers (left) with company President Brian Geary during a tour of the warehouse that will serve as headquarters.



Perris City Councilman Al Landers: "We make our own luck."



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough says the new business raises the City's profile and shows Perris can attract world-class companies.