

Spirit AeroSystems Hires Hutchison Group to Help Negotiate Historic 12 Year Labor Agreement

January 2013 - Unionized employees of Spirit AeroSystems' Kinston NC plant voted overwhelmingly in favor of a contract, which company officials called "historic in nature" and beneficial to both parties.

"We are very pleased with this ratification vote of what is a highly innovative 12 year agreement between Spirit AeroSystems and the IAM (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers)," Spirit spokesman Ken Evans stated Friday.

"Rather than legislate, this innovative agreement provides a simple framework for problem-solving among the partners," Evans continued. "It's a living agreement to keep the facility productive and efficient, and allow us to work any needed changes together."

Evans said company officials "believe this agreement will be historic in nature, setting a new bar for company/union partnerships. We thank the IAM and its members for their collaboration, hard work and ongoing partnership!"

"This is an important "win-win" contract for us," Ron Eldridge, IAM's aerospace coordinator, stated " as it allows us to build on the partnership with Spirit that the IAM has in the Wichita, KS facility".

Hutchison Group President, Cameron Hutchison, stated "this is by far one of the most innovative and flexible labor agreements ever developed and we are privileged to have been part of the process", also adding "besides the contracts 12 year duration, it places a great deal of emphasis on performance, and should serve as a model for other unionized companies".

Spirit AeroSystems opened the 500,000-square-foot facility in Kinston in 2010, where it builds the center fuselage section and front wing spar for the Airbus A350 XWB (extra wide body). Spirit AeroSystems is based in Wichita, Kansas, and is the world's largest first-tier aerostructures manufacturer.



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