



West Tool & Design Expands Business to Battle Lake

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Battle Lake, MN – June 22, 2009 – West Tool & Design, headquartered in Fergus Falls, recently expanded its operations to Battle Lake by purchasing Wood Lake Welding. West Tool & Design is a precision machine shop and stainless steel fabrication company, and acquired the business in Battle Lake in mid May.

Former Wood Lake Welding owner, Ardy Hoye, had the business for sale for several years, and had evaluated possibly selling to interested buyers out of the area or closing up shop altogether.

Enter Lakes Area Development Association.

Upon hearing Ardy's desire to keep the business local and to retain jobs, a contact was made to Don Westra, current president and CEO of West Tool & Design. Coincidentally, Westra had been keeping his eye on Wood Lake Welding for a couple of years because of its UL certification, an important designation for product compliance and safety. Westra and Hoye began discussions, determined a value, and the purchase was complete.

"We are thrilled to be keeping industry in the area and retaining jobs," said Westra. "The lakes area is on the verge of taking off."

Westra, a summer resident of Eagle Lake, founded West Tool & Design in Fergus Falls nearly 20 years ago serving the electronics industry. Since that time, West Tool & Design has grown to serve over 750 customers in the mechanical equipment, packaging, and medical device industries. Currently employing 22 workers, the Fergus Falls location specializes in short-run production machining and custom stainless steel and sheet metal work. The 8,000 sq. ft. Battle Lake location currently has three employees and specializes in product-oriented machining such as control boxes and automatic car wash parts and assembly.

Shawn Frank, Board Chairman for Lakes Area Development said, "The expansion of West Tool into Battle Lake is a success story for the company, for Battle Lake, and for the lakes area economy. West Tool is exactly the type of year-round, quality manufacturing operation that we're proud to welcome to the area."

About Lakes Area Development Association

Lakes Area Development Association enables economic development in the lakes area with business expansion services, new investments, and community enhancements while preserving a superb quality of life. The association's address is P.O. Box 895, Battle Lake, MN 56515.

For more information, please contact:

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