



For Immediate Release

Additional Information:

Michael J. London -- Office: 203.261.1549 – Cell: 203-556-5123

EASTFORD AEROSPACE FIRM BUYS NORWALK COMPANY

EASTFORD, Conn., Jan. 26, 2006 – **Whitcraft LLC**, an aerospace components manufacturing company, today announced the acquisition of Alden O. Sherman Co., Inc., a Norwalk, Conn., manufacturer of specialized components for aircraft engines.

Alden O. Sherman is located at 27 Lois Street, Norwalk, Conn., and currently employs about 50 people, primarily highly skilled sheet metal technicians, machinists and engineers. The purchase price was not disclosed.

“Alden O. Sherman has long demonstrated a unique ability to manufacture geometrically complex aerospace components out of a variety of highly specialized aerospace alloys,” said Jeffrey Paul, Whitcraft’s President. “We intend to grow this business in Fairfield County. The company will now be called A. O. Sherman, LLC.”

Alden O. Sherman, founded 55 years ago, manufacturers specialized stator vanes and assemblies for jet engines. Stator vanes direct the flow of air through the engine. The company’s founder, Alden Sherman, and its president, Jane Sherman, will remain consultants to Whitcraft.

A. O. Sherman has a proprietary, patented system for repetitive production of metal components with tight tolerances that are not economically obtainable with other methods. Its major customers include the federal government, Honeywell, and General Electric, among others.

“Strategically, this acquisition made sense for us because it provides Whitcraft with a broader array of manufacturing services to offer our customers and puts us in a position to provide customers with higher level assemblies, rather than just the individual components that make up the assemblies,” said Colin Cooper, Whitcraft’s chief executive officer.

-- More --

This is Whitcraft's second acquisition in about 18 months. In mid-2004, Whitcraft acquired Connecticut Tool and Manufacturing, Inc., Plainville, Conn. Since that acquisition, Whitcraft has increased its Plainville workforce from 40 to 50 and now is in the process of adding about 11,000 square feet of manufacturing space to that facility.

Over the next 6-12 months, the company anticipates hiring 10 or more people at its Plainville location and at least 10 at its headquarters in Eastford. The company now employs 235 people in Eastford – 60 more than 18 months ago.

“We are now poised for significant growth in the months and years ahead,” Paul said. “Our strategy at A. O. Sherman, as with all of our operations, is to streamline manufacturing processes so we can free employees to work on the wide range of new opportunities that are practically at our front door.”

“And we continue to be on the lookout for additional acquisitions,” Cooper added.

Whitcraft's Eastford facility primarily manufactures engine components for military and commercial jets, including the Joint Strike Fighter, F-22 and virtually all the major engines produced by Pratt & Whitney, General Electric and Honeywell. The Plainville plant makes helicopter rotor and propeller parts, primarily for Sikorsky and Hamilton Sundstrand.

Whitcraft, a privately held company, is headquartered at 76 County Road, Eastford. The firm's web site is www.whitcraft.com. Both Whitcraft and CT Tool and Manufacturing are long time members of the ACM aerospace cluster association.

###