

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



ment services in Oklahoma and other states — Quoetone said the Oklahoma Department of Commerce helped Pro-Fab come up with the idea of attracting potential employees with a job fair.

Jim Rice, founder of the company, started the business in his garage, with one machine, in 1987. Beginning with one machine, Rice built the company to its current status as a major supplier of parts for the GV jet, manufactured by Gulfstream Aerospace Technologies. Pro-Fab also has contracts with Rockwell International, Boeing, Cessna, Raytheon, British Aerospace and the U.S. Government.

Rice's first contracts were for machine gun parts. Today, one of Pro-Fab's defense contracts is the manufacture of the breech-lock on the M-2 machine gun and the bipod on the M-60 machine gun. They also manufacture the refueling boom for the KC-135 aerial tanker for the U.S. Air Force. The company has expanded eight times since its founding, and sales are projected at \$10 million.

According to Rice, it is Pro-Fab's technical expertise as well as precision, simultaneous, five-axis machining centers, and CAD/CAM equipment, that sets the company apart.

This week, Pro-Fab, Inc. was named one of the 50 fastest-growing private companies in the area by *The Metro Journal*. Rice will be featured in the December issue.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/14/96

OESC ACCEPTS GRANT FOR CAREER CENTERS

■(GIT)The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission a \$3 million grant to launch One-Stop Career Center Systems, Glen Robards, OESC's One-Stop coordinator, said.

The OESC, with the aid of local Job Training Partnership Act grant recipients, has divided the state into several areas and will centralize the employment information and services in that area to one or more integrated facilities. The facilities will provide referrals, testing and assessment and information on job openings and labor markets and careers.

One-Stop will enable all partners involved in the program to access the One-Net system and to develop a common data depository.

Robards said partners in Bartlesville have already begun to integrate their services at the Tri-County Vo-tech. The OESC and Lawton JTPA recipients are also working together to coordinate information and services.

The one-year grant will fund the purchase and coordination of technology and services among private and state job search and information organizations. Robards said Oklahoma employment organizations had discussed possible solutions to problems with coordinating employment information and services. Before One-Stop, people seeking employment or employees had to go to several places and through several organizations to locate information or services.

One-Stop will also provide easier access to information and services for disabled people.

The DOL plans to use nearly \$300,000 in funding across the nation to develop technical assistance on disability issues for One-Stop centers. DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics is also conducting further studies with the Census Bureau to gather information on the employment experience of disabled people.

Oklahoma was one of eight states who competed for and won One-Stop grants this year. Twenty-four states now are in the process of implementing the program. When the program becomes fully operational next year, 80 percent of the nation's civilian labor force in 33 states will be able to access the One-Stop services.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/14/96

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OKLAHOMA

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Secretary of Commerce Ronald Rosenfeld announced the appointment of Peter W. C. Mather as the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Wednesday. In his new role, Mather will explore ways to maximize technological impact for economic and community growth across Oklahoma.

For the past 15 years, Mather was Vice President of Management Information Services for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. a \$4 billion chemicals and industrial gases company, with operations in more than 30

countries. He reported to the chairman and was a member of this Fortune 200 company's management committee. His responsibilities included developing worldwide strategy, implementation and operation of the company's information resources involving an annual operating expense budget of \$150 million.

"The State of Oklahoma and the lead economic development agency should feel very fortunate to have Mather on board," Secretary Rosenfeld said. "His vast expertise will be an asset in encouraging future technology advancements for Oklahoma."

Mather holds an MBA from Lehigh University and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School. He has extensive experience in evaluating, transferring and assimilating advanced technologies. For the past 20 years, Mather has been a recognized leader and spokesman for the information technology community.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF COMMERCE
11/13/96

CORRECTIONS

NEW PRIVATE PRISON NOT ENOUGH FOR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

■(GIT) The opening of a new private prison in Sayre in 1998 likely won't be enough to offset the continued influx of inmates into the state prison system, according to a spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

Corrections Corporation of America, which is based in Nashville, announced last week that it has agreed to build a 960-bed, medium security prison in Sayre to house adult male inmates. The \$29 million facility, which is expected to be completed by February 1998, will be financed with tax-exempt bonds issued by the Sayre Industrial Authority, which has contracted with the company for the design, construction and operation of the facility.

"I think our needs will continue to outpace what is planned to be built in Oklahoma over the next year," said Jerry Massie, spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

The Board of Corrections gave its approval in September to the department's largest budget request ever — \$350.5 million

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