



Oshkosh plans Chinese factory to manufacture JLG equipment

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

Oshkosh Corp. broke ground Tuesday for a new plant in Tianjin, China, that will manufacture JLG equipment.

This is the first China-based manufacturing facility for Oshkosh Corp., Chairman and CEO Robert G. Bohn said Tuesday. He said the access equipment is designed for the Asian market and the Tianjin facility will improve delivery turnaround times for JLG aerial work platforms.

"Today's groundbreaking is confirmation of our investment in the future, and a significant opportunity for our customers, as well as the company," Bohn said in a news release.

JLG Industries opened a China sales office in 2002.

In 2006, Oshkosh opened a Beijing corporate office, which serves as the hub for Asian operations and is responsible for the sale, service and support of Oshkosh products. In March of this year, Oshkosh opened a Shanghai corporate office that concentrates on the sourcing of parts and components for the manufacturing of Oshkosh and JLG products.

Oshkosh has been offering product and service

support to China since 1982, when the company began supplying aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles.

A weaker construction market led to massive layoffs at JLG and a drop in sales in North America, and to a lesser extent, Europe. However, the company said sales continue to grow in emerging markets.

"China has been on an upward path for a long time. They're dealing with some of the same (economic) issues as well, but the fact is they're still the strongest emerging marketplace in the world. You see virtually every manufacturer is exploring a presence over there," said L. Michael Ross, president of the Franklin County Area Development Corp.

Earlier this year, crane manufacturer Manitowoc announced the formation of a joint venture with the shareholders of the China-based TaiAn Dongyue Heavy Machinery Co. Ltd. for the production of mobile and truck-mounted hydraulic cranes. The joint venture, announced during the ConExpo 2008 in Las Vegas, is located in TaiAn City, Shandong Province, China, about 300 miles south of Beijing.

Ross said that given the current global economic climate, "it's a positive" to see Oshkosh making such a critical investment.

Oshkosh currently manufactures in 11 countries and has additional service operations in 16 countries.

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The company said the massive COSCO shipyard, located in Dalian, China, uses JLG access equipment product and that other Oshkosh products are used throughout China, including some of the country's busiest airports.

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