German Robotics Company Named First Elk Grove Technology Park Tenant

Broetje-Automation Serves Top Aviation Companies, Boeing, Lockheed Martin

By TOM ROBB
JOURNAL & Topics Reporter

Broetje-Automation, a German-based robotics company for the aerospace industry, will be the first to lease space in the Elk Grove Technology Park for its U.S. headquarters and manufacturing facility, Elk Grove Village officials announced July 1.

The company expects to occupy more than 43,000 square feet of space in a building on the Higgins Road side of the 1.2 million square foot technology park by October, village officials said. Broetje-Automation spokesman Simon Schmidt told the Journal  the company expects to be at full manufacturing capacity in Elk Grove Village within four to five years.

Broetje-Automation makes assembly machines, drills, fasteners and component carriers for some of the biggest names in the aerospace industry including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Airbus (in Europe), Gulf Stream and Spirit Aerosystems, which operates in Boeing's supply chain, Schmidt said.

"We are pleased to complete this lease with Broetje and validate the vision for our development: to provide a world class industrial park for high end users in tech-related industries and those in traditional industries that actively utilize technology within their company," Kevin Brennan, managing principal at Brennan Investment Group said in a written statement. Broetje-Automation specializes in the "manufacturing and assembly of robotic systems and automated composite manufacturing equipment," Elk Grove Village officials said. Village (Continued on page 4)
Made To Last

Hausner Hard Chrome Celebrates 50 Years In Business

By MELANIE KALMAR
Special to the Journal

In the Elk Grove Village Business Park, third and fourth generations of the Hausner family work side by side in their 50-year-old chrome-plating business, Hausner Hard Chrome Inc. The company applies hard chrome plating to new and used machinery parts, for a variety of domestic and global industries, to make them last longer and function better by reducing friction, wear, corrosion, sticking, and damage from chemicals and heat.

Hausner’s work can be seen on parts used in manufacturing at power plants, food processing facilities, steel mills, coal preparation plants, offshore oil rigs and more. The company plates metal components as small as dental burrs and as large as 75-ton mill rolls.

Located at 679 Greenleaf Avenue and several other buildings in town, Hausner has evolved into using thermal sprays that are wear-resistant for extending the life of parts and offer corrosion and erosion protection. In the last 20 years, Hausner has developed its onsite business, doing repairs/coatings at clients’ facilities to improve and keep their processes going without extended down time.

“From space shuttle hangers at NASA, working on elevator systems, to being at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C., working on old German presses printing money, we have been to a lot of places to work on unusual components,” said CEO David Hausner, son of Wolfgang Hausner, the company’s founder. “Innovation is going out and listening to our customers. That is how we got into onsite services and different coatings. The business is based on creatively solving business problems and giving customers the opportunity to make things work better.”

The firm’s roots go back to David’s grandfather Hans in Germany. During World War II, he launched and ran one of the biggest chrome plating companies in the country, known for its non-toxic, harder than glass coating that protected industrial items from wearing down. You can actually take a look at his work today. Hans’ coatings cover the barrels of the guns that are attached to the U-505 German submarine currently on display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

A chemist and engineer, Hans had 54 patents to his name that had nothing to do with chrome plating, he was that creative of an innovator, David said.

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Trophy Comes Home; Here’s Where To Catch It

Elk Grove Village presented the official Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl trophy to the community as a special kick-off to the Mid-Summer Concert Series at the village’s Fourth of July Independence Day Concert. This is the first time residents and members of the community had the opportunity to view and take photos of the official Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl trophy and player’s helmet.

Elk Grove Village is the title sponsor of the 2019 Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl that is set to take place on Dec. 20, 2019. Makers Wanted is the tagline that serves as a call-to-action for the village’s thriving community and the thousands of businesses that are based here.

December of 2018 was the first time a non-tourist municipality has ever sponsored a bowl game, due to the incredible 40-1 return on investment from the sponsorship. “The sponsorship of the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl provides the opportunity to continue building the village’s reputation globally,” said Mayor Craig Johnson. “We are enthusiastic about bringing part of the Bahamas Bowl to share with the Elk Grove Village community.”

The Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl trophy and helmet will be displayed throughout the Mid-Summer Concert Series which takes place every Tuesday in July located at 901 Wellington Avenue.

“We are enthusiastic about bringing part of the Bahamas Bowl to share with the Elk Grove Village community.” Mayor Craig Johnson
Acculight
(Continued from page 5)
Sensors are actual hardware, mounted to the fixtures, that enable different functions such as auto dimming and lights turning on or off depending on whether or not a room is occupied. Whereas Artificial Intelligence is embedded into the “Intellibox” device his team is developing. The size of a business card, the Intellibox is fitted into a central management console where everything is monitored. It makes video and image recordings that can be connected to a database of wanted criminals and alert authorities of their whereabouts, based on face recognition and retina scan technology. It can also notify parking lot managers of which lights are out and need to be replaced and allow them, via two-way radio, toilet visitors know if they need to move their cars.

Looking around his manufacturing plant, Mootheril is amazed how the company has grown from its incubator space to today, “It came up as an investment opportunity and turned out to be my passion.” Mootheril said of the business. Through future acquisitions and global distribution, plans on expanding his company even further.

Hausner
(Continued from page 3)
After the war, Hans moved his family to the United States and started another chrome plating business with help from his son Wolfgang. David’s father. When Hans retired, Wolfgang became an entrepreneur and founded his own company in 1969, Hausner Hard Chrome Incorporated, carrying on the family tradition of working in the plating business. Along with his sons David and Jeff, who oversees marketing and sales for the business, and grandson Kory, who is also employed at the company, to the industry. Retired, Wolfgang is still available to give advice to his family whenever they talk shop.

Between its Owensboro, Kentucky, headquarters and its multiple Elk Grove Village locations, Hausner employs about 150 workers.

Arby’s Eyes
Town Center
A new Arby’s restaurant with a drive-through could soon be built in Elk Grove Village’s Town Center as trustees approved a request for the plan commission to schedule a public hearing.

The petition came from Michigan-based Team Lyders LLC, which manages Arby’s and Taco Bell fast food restaurants in the United States.

If plans move forward, a new building for Arby’s would be built in the Elk Grove Town Center at Arlington Heights and Brickyard roads. Team Lyders requested a petition for rezoning the new restaurant and a special use for the drive-through.

No date has been set for the plan commission meeting. Village board members approved the hearing request at their June 18 meeting.