BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Winco Helicopters Turns to Engineered Structures to Build New Headquarters

"When we decided to build a new headquarters at the Aurora State Airport and looked at the structures there for Van's Aviation and Artex, we liked what we saw," recalls Mike Patton, vice president of Winco Helicopters in Molalla. "We found the type of building we wanted."

Then, when Patton received the semi-annual newsletter sent out by Engineered Structures Inc., the Portland-based general contractor that recently constructed the two airport buildings; he had found a company to build it.

"In our 25 years in the construction industry, we have erected hundreds of custom designed and engineered, steel-frame buildings," said Engineered Structures President **Elizabeth Brockway**. "We like their design, strength, ease of construction, and durability. We are one of the area's leading manufacturer's representatives for American Buildings Company, a prominent name in pre-engineered, steel buildings for more than half a century.

"These types of steel buildings used to be mainly for industrial or warehouse projects. But now they are being used more and more for schools, churches, medical facilities, and recreational facilities."

Thanks to excellent design, engineering, and fabrication, buildings like Winco's headquarters are strong, efficient, and easy to build.

The new Winco headquarters consists of a 4,200-square-foot hangar with a 26-foot-high clear area and a two-ton rail crane. There is also 4,800 square feet of office space, a conference room, warehouse space, and a parts department. The helicopters enter the hanger through a huge 60- by 20-foot clamshell, aluminum door. Outside, along with the usual entrance and parking space, is a 2,600-square-foot concrete apron that will be connected via a taxiway to the airport's main runway.

Winco Helicopters is an Oregon company that has found a niche for its four light-turbine helicopters, each with a 1,200-pound lift capacity. One of four such businesses in the U.S., the firm does construction, maintenance, and repair work on electric power lines throughout the country.

"Except for maintenance, our helicopters are typically not around very much," Patton said. "They better not be; they should be out working.

"If all four were ever here at once, there would be a big problem with the management of our company," he added with a laugh.

"The project is going well and we are on schedule to finish by the end of April," said Engineered Structures Superintendent **George Minor**. "We have a nice big site to work on, which is always a plus.

"Even though every new project is custom-designed, these types of pre-engineered structures are relatively easy to put up. The hardest part of the job is to get the slab with all the connections for the steel right. After that, the excellent design, engineering, and steel fabrication that goes into each structure make them a pleasure to build." ❖

Winco Helicopters will soon move into its new headquarters at the Aurora State Airport in Marion County. The company chose a custom designed and engineered, steel-frame building that is being built by Portland general contractor Engineered Structures Inc.

The 4,200-square-foot hangar with a 26-foot high roof will be used for maintenance and repair work on Winco's four helicopters.

Helicopter access to the hangar will be through a 60- by 20-foot clamshell, aluminum door.