Boeing To Build 787 Tail Part In Utah

Paul Foy, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Aircraft maker Boeing Co. announced Friday it will expand manufacturing operations in Utah by opening a third factory in the Salt Lake City area to fabricate a tail piece for the Boeing 787.

Boeing is taking over a factory originally built by KraftMaid Cabinetry in the Salt Lake suburb of West Jordan, where Gov. Gary Herbert joined company officials Friday for the announcement.

Boeing has 575 employees in Utah and said it will add 100 more. Hiring will begin immediately for engineers and project managers, and Boeing will add production workers after converting the KraftMaid factory into a production facility for carbon-fiber aircraft parts, said Craig Trewet, director of Boeing Salt Lake.

Chicago-based Boeing assembles the 787 in Seattle and has had operations in Utah for 25 years. It makes flight deck parts, has a paint shop and assembles the 787's vertical tail fin at other locations near Salt Lake's airport. In West Jordan, Boeing will make horizontal stabilizers for the aircraft's tail.

"The site we've chosen is an ideal location to add composite manufacturing capability focused on Boeing's key business strategies," said Ross Bogue, vice president and general manager of Boeing Fabrication. "This new facility will provide a real competitive advantage in our supply chain."

Boeing said it will take two years to redesign the 850,000-square-foot factory.

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