

Zarges Aluminum Systems Announces Texas Manufacturing Facility

German Company Brings Integrated Aluminum Wind Tower Internal Systems to North American Market

Amarillo, Texas – Zarges Aluminum Systems GmbH, a division of Germany-based Zarges-Tubesca Holding GmbH, announced it will begin construction on a manufacturing facility in Amarillo, Texas in the second quarter of 2009. The company opened a business office there last month.

The 80,000 square-foot plant, expected to be operational by the end of 2009, will be a replica of the Zarges facility in Wilhelm, Germany, where the company currently manufactures integrated aluminum internal systems for wind towers. Zarges expects to employ 100 people in manufacturing and logistics in Amarillo by 2012. “We are very proud to be on the forefront of establishing Amarillo as the U.S. center for wind power energy,” said Bernd Goepfert, president of Zarges Aluminium Systeme in Germany.

“Zarges is excited about this new facility and the potential it holds for improving internal production and delivery in the United States and Canada,” said Tim Dannels, managing director of U.S. operations. “The Zarges aluminum system simplifies a range of processes, from cost-effective manufacturing to efficient delivery and low long-term maintenance costs. We are looking forward to delivering those benefits in the North American market in the same way Zarges has been serving international wind development for years.”

The facility will be located on more than eight-and-a-half acres within the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation’s (AEDC) CenterPort Business Park, with an option to expand to an additional five acres. The Amarillo EDC has granted Zarges incentives that include financial benefits and offsets in terms of land, the physical structure and taxes. In addition, Zarges received a \$400,000 Texas Enterprise Fund Grant from Texas Division of Economic Development & Tourism.

“We are extremely pleased to have Zarges join the business community here in Amarillo,” said Amarillo EDC President and CEO Richard “Buzz” David. “The company’s position in the supply chain in the wind power industry gives Amarillo an ideal entry point into its manufacturing sector.”

Zarges intends to hire local professionals and employees to operate the Amarillo facility. The company is offering competitive wages and benefits and a progressive work environment. It also is working with Amarillo College to develop welding, technical training and robotics/automation programs to provide skills, training and education for future employees.

Zarges Aluminum Systems specializes in four main sectors: access equipment, aviation ground equipment, tower fittings for wind power systems and components, and defense engineering. For years, the company has been supporting manufacturers of wind turbine power plants worldwide, functioning both as general contractor and consultant. Zarges supplies an entire range of components and services, including fixed ladders with fall arrestor systems; wall mountings; intermediate platforms; service lifts including control systems, modular platforms and railing systems; modular access steps and overhead walkways; and E-technology equipment. It also provides logistics services and can supervise or carry out installation. All Zarges wind tower internal systems are prefabricated and ready to install. The standardization reduces installation costs and long-term maintenance needs. Zarges works in close cooperation with its customers, handling the project work for all sub-assemblies and tower fittings to a high technical level and in compliance with applicable standards and regulations.

Zarges Aluminum Systems GmbH

Zarges-Tubesca was founded in Stuttgart, Germany in 1933 as Europe’s first light-alloy processing company. The company has plants in Germany, France and Hungary. Zarges Aluminum Systems, based in Wilhelm, Germany, is one of three company divisions. It supplies systems solutions to leading manufacturers worldwide in fields ranging from wind energy development to the quality-conscious aviation industry to security-sensitive military applications.