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Manatee County company is on the march across U.S. with LoadMaestro band carts

Bradenton, FL – High school and college marching bands across the United States are hustling on and off competition fields more efficiently using specialized carts created by Manatee County's Dulond Tool & Engineering Inc. The company, which moved into a new 13,000-square-foot facility in June, has sold its patented LoadMaestro carts to schools from Alabama to Texas and from the Carolinas to Michigan.

"We originally designed the LoadMaestro cart to help the Lakewood Ranch High School marching band get its equipment on and off the field more efficiently for competitions," said Jeff Benson, Dulond Tool & Engineering president and owner. "Now we're looking at LoadMaestro products to account for up to 20 percent of sales within the next few years."

Dulond's business, which is primarily focused in machining and assembly, has traditionally come from the aviation, aerospace, computer chip and marine industries. The company has 13 employees and has signed with a distributor in Chicago to market the band carts. In addition, Benson said the company hopes to be part of a security-related project that could stimulate hiring in 2009-2010. The new building allowed Dulond to move out of leased space and is adjacent to a building the company already owns.

"Dulond Tool & Engineering is an example of the product innovation and market diversification that is helping Manatee County companies grow in today's marketplace," said Eric Basinger, executive director of the Economic Development Council, Manatee Chamber of Commerce (EDC), which assisted Dulond's expansion through the EDC rapid response permitting program. "Benson and his team saw an opportunity and went for it. The EDC is proud to have played a part in helping Dulond expand its footprint in Manatee County."

About the EDC

The Economic Development Council, a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, is the sole organization responsible for developing and implementing programs designed to attract new value-added businesses and to assist in the retention and growth of targeted existing businesses in Manatee County.

Information: www.ManateeEDC.com.

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