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Two businesses plan to add 51 employees in Manatee County

BRADENTON, FL – There's more good news on the employment front in Manatee County with two companies announcing plans to add a combined 51 employees over the next five years with the help of local incentives approved by Manatee County Government, according to Eric Basinger, executive director of the Manatee Economic Development Council (EDC).

[Exactech](#) (NASDAQ:EXAC), a medical manufacturer that located a facility in Manatee County in 2008, plans to add five more employees in 2010 and a total of 29 over the next five years. [Home-Tech](#), which provides repair and replacement services for air conditioning systems and major appliances, will construct a new building for its regional headquarters in Manatee County and add 22 jobs over five years.

"More, good jobs for the community is great news any time, and particularly in the current economic climate," Basinger said. "The EDC was glad to be part of bringing Exactech and Home-Tech to the community and helping them grow here."

"Manatee County's can-do attitude toward businesses that want to locate and grow here is paying off with jobs for local residents," said Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County administrator. "Performance-based incentives for adding good jobs and rapid response permitting for companies that are building or renovating a facility help us attract and retain employers that our community wants and needs."

Gainesville, Fla.-based Exactech established a new facility in south Manatee County in 2008 to manufacture surgical instruments used to implant the company's joint replacement devices. The company began production in the facility in 2009, and expects to add employees as the business brings more previously out-sourced manufacturing in-house, according to John Pelc, Exactech vice president of operations. The company's Gainesville headquarters currently designs and manufactures orthopaedic devices that are used by surgeons in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The positions we will add in Manatee County will be in a range of professions including machinists, quality engineers and other professional positions," Pelc said. "The resource pool in Manatee County is allowing us to rapidly ramp-up our surgical instrument manufacturing operation, which will provide a significant competitive advantage to drive our long-term growth."

Home-Tech was founded in 1981 by Steve Marino, the company's president and chairman of the board. The privately held company employs more than 110 people and provides services in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Sarasota and Manatee counties, according to the company's Web site.

The county incentives included up to \$58,000 for Exactech to add 29 jobs over the next five years. Home-Tech could receive up to \$22,000 for adding 21 jobs over five years, plus the company is eligible for \$5,743 in impact fee refunds. Jobs provided by the companies must exceed the county annual average wage of \$33,582 for the incentives to apply.

About the EDC

The Economic Development Council, a division of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, develops and implements programs to attract new high-impact businesses and to assist in the retention and growth of targeted existing businesses in Manatee County. Information: www.ManateeEDC.com.

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