



Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Wytheville & Rural Retreat

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PRESS RELEASE

POWERSHOT TOOL EXPANDS OPERATIONS IN FAIRVIEW INDUSTRIAL PARK

WYTHEVILLE—PowerShot Tool Co., Inc., a subsidiary of Longwood Industries, has expanded operations in Fairview Industrial Park. The company recently moved from the Longwood Elastomers building at 655 Fairview Road to the approximately 25,000 sq. ft. facility vacated by National Seating Company at 365 George James Drive. PowerShot manufactures and sells forward-action staple guns and glue guns for the residential and commercial markets to all leading distributors including Lowe's, Home Depot, Sears, Tru-Serve, Ace, and Do-It Best. Additional product line items include rivot guns, hammer tackers, and electric staplers. International sales extend to markets in Australia, Europe, North America, Central America, and South America.

John Hawkins has joined the company as plant manager. John brings 14 years of manufacturing experience in the automotive industry with an emphasis on lean manufacturing and Toyota Production System techniques.

Employing 45 regular associates at its Wytheville facility, PowerShot has been utilizing up to 125 additional temporary employees to handle the largest peak season the company has yet experienced. Annual sales for FY 2002 are estimated at \$25 million. Growth strategies involve additional products and deeper market penetration with emphasis on Europe and North America.

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