

## **Alternate Heating Systems to expand in Chambersburg, add 30 to 40 jobs**

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG -- A heating systems manufacturer plans to hire 30 to 40 more workers after moving into a new facility in Chambersburg.

Alternate Heating Systems moved its manufacturing operations and offices into a building on Wayne Avenue to provide room for its growth.

"The move is really key to increasing our production, cutting costs, and helping us reach our goals as a company," said owner Brian Wise.

Alternate Heating Systems manufactures wood, coal, multi-fuel and waste oil boilers.

The company employs about 20 people.

Demand has forced the company to search for larger facilities twice in the past three years. The company did its welding and fabrication at a facility in Harrisonville, painting and assembly in Edenville, and maintained a showroom and corporate offices in St. Thomas.

The three buildings are now being consolidated into one 80,000-square-foot facility at 1086 Wayne Ave., the former location of Hitch Things.

Alternate Heating Systems had acquired the equipment and building from Hitch Things, a fabrication shop that had done subcontract work for the company in the past.

"Hitch Things had laid off about 25 people, and our intent is to bring them back as we get that fabrication work," Wise said. "In addition, we'll bring in several people for our boiler side."

Alternative heating products have gained popularity due to rising fuel prices, concerns over dependence on imported fuels, and increased focus on the environment. The company's products are used in residential, commercial and industrial applications.

The new location on Wayne Avenue provides enough space to consolidate production, manufacturing, sales and office staff in one facility. Good access to Interstate 81 will also make it easier for customers to visit the showroom and see the products, Wise said. The new building also provides room for a laboratory for product testing.

"This will help us a lot as we introduce products," Wise said.

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