

Publication: Jnl Final Edition 8/2005-today; Date: Aug 9, 2008; Section: Business; Page: C7



Eclipse Cuts 190 Temps

Company Says Move Common

By Andrew Webb Journal Staff Writer

Eclipse Aviation announced late Friday that it had "released" about 190 temporary employees, or about 9 percent of its total work force, to reduce expenses.

In a brief news release, the company said the move would not affect any direct employees.

The majority were hired from outside Albuquerque and will return to their agencies for further job placement, the company said.

"It is not uncommon for manufacturing companies to hire temporary workers when adapting to fluctuations in production," the company said in an e-mailed statement. "The reduction in work force is based on efforts to reduce expenses and be better positioned financially."

The company said it would have no further comment about the decision. Its head count now stands at 1,865.

The move comes in a turbulent period for Eclipse, which has struggled this year to meet aircraft delivery benchmarks in the midst of cashflow problems.

Company investors late last month forced the ouster of Eclipse founder and CEO Vern Raburn. He has since been replaced by Roel Pieper, of European investment firm European Technology Investment and Research Center, or ETIRC, the company's top shareholder.

Late last year, as production numbers failed to reach company projections, Eclipse laid off about 150 temporary workers.





THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Technicians work on a jet manufactured at Eclipse Aviation in Albuquerque in December.

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