

PUBLISHED TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

Sen. Isakson praises Chromalloy workers for taxpayers savings

BY JOHN WINTERS

THE NEWMAN TIMES-HERALD

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., toured the Coweta County Chromalloy plant Monday, praising employees for work that saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Chromalloy, located in the Shenandoah Industrial Park, repairs and retools components of aircraft engines and industrial gas turbines.

Within the last year, the company has added about 75 jobs at its Newnan and LaGrange plants. As of now, the company has 151 employees in Newnan, with another 45 or so in LaGrange.

“That’s a great expansion for us in the state of Georgia,” Isakson said. “Given what Chromalloy does, there is great potential for growth and for more jobs in Georgia.”

Tim Ulles, general manager of the Newnan plant, said “our employees understand how critical our work is... and they do it every day.”

Airlines — both military and commercial — are a major customer base for Chromalloy.

Plant officials said the company uses “21st century technology” to retool specific components, thereby extending the life of expensive engines.

“I fly at least twice a week and what they do here is remarkable,” Isakson said. “They re-engineer parts to extend the components’ life.”

“The service they provide is tremendous,” the senator added. “The savings to the American taxpayers in overhauling and extending the life of our military engines could reach into the billions of dollars.”

With extensive military budget cuts on the horizon, Isakson said it is imperative the country get as much life out of its jets as possible.

Similar work on retooling engine parts for the KC-10, primarily used for transport and aerial refueling, saved the military about \$100 million, Chromalloy officials said.

“We are part of a large company, but we work with our employees so they understand what they do is important,” Ulles said. “We empower them.”

Chromalloy offers bonuses not only to salaried employees, but hourly employees every quarter.

Prior to a tour of the plant, Isakson presented Ulles with an American flag that flew over the Capitol.



PHOTO BY JOHN WINTERS

Chromalloy general manager Tim Ulles takes U.S. Sen Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., on a tour of the Coweta County plant.