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New home finished for heavy equipment maker Ring Power Corp.

Builders prop with 12-inch, steel-reinforced concrete slabs

Jacksonville Business Journal by Paul Ivice, Correspondent

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY -- When Ring Power Corp. moves into its new home next month, Randy Ringhaver believes it will signal a new generation of heavy-equipment dealerships.

It's the first new headquarters built for a Caterpillar dealer in the United States in quite a while, said Ringhaver, chairman and president of Ring Power Corp. "Nobody's put a new facility like this on the street in 25 years," he said. "We think we're on the leading edge and will set a precedent for what Caterpillar dealers should be."

Ringhaver said the location in the World Commerce Center near the World Golf Village in northern St. Johns County was chosen because it is proximate to the growing construction industry in Northeast Florida.

He said the 90-acre site also was attractive to his employees because of the ease of getting there, a 25-minute drive down Interstate 95 from Downtown Jacksonville.

Overall, Ring Power will have about triple the 125,000 square feet of working space it has at its Jacksonville headquarters on Philips Highway, about 25 miles north.

Ring Power was founded in 1961 as a Caterpillar engine-only dealer, headquartered in St. Augustine. In 1962, the company became a full-line Caterpillar dealer and relocated to Jacksonville.

Ringhaver said he is merging two companies based in Tampa and Jacksonville and the combined result "will benefit from a lot of efficiencies."



He said about a half-dozen Tampa-based employees chose not to move, but the overall effect will be a boost for jobs in North Florida. The new facility will employ about 460 workers.

The architect on the project was Atlanta-based Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart, Stewart & Associates Inc., which has designed huge projects for companies based in Orlando to China and India. "Smallwood was selected primarily because of the size of the facility, particularly the office space that will administer 22 other locations across the country," Ringhaver said.

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