

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE AND GROUND FORCE MANUFACTURING SIGN LONG TERM DEAL

Plummer, Idaho – The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Ground Force Manufacturing LLC have recently inked a deal to lease the Tribe's 55,000 square foot manufacturing facility to Ground Force for the next five years, with two renewable terms of five years each.

The facility is located on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Plummer, Idaho, and was formerly utilized by Echelon LLC, an SBA 8(a) and HubZone certified tribal enterprise, to produce large fuel bladders under a contract with the US Army.

With major cuts to US military spending and the drawdown in Iraq, the US Army has shifted its spending priorities away from the large fuel bladders once produced by Echelon LLC at the Plummer facility. Echelon LLC will continue to focus on its emerging divisions in construction management and environmental services.

"The Tribe and Echelon felt the best use of all that manufacturing square footage was to find a thriving business from our region that needed space to grow and could provide jobs to our community," said Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council Chairman Chief Allan. "Under Ron Nilson's leadership, Ground Force is a perfect fit," Allan said. "We are very excited about this relationship with Ground Force and look forward to the job opportunities and positive impact it will bring to the reservation."

"This is a win-win for both entities," said Ron Nilson, President and CEO of Ground Force Manufacturing. "Ground Force continues to thrive, thanks to its strong commitment to the global marketplace, selling mining equipment and providing service to customers in over forty countries. The partnership with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Echelon through the lease of the Plummer facility will provide much needed jobs to the reservation community and help pave the way for even more international opportunities and pursuits for Ground Force."

It is estimated that Ground Force will hire 50+ employees for the Plummer facility work in the next year. Ground Force provides the mining industry with the world's largest Fuel and Lube Trucks, the largest number of Rigid Frame Fuel and Lube Trucks, and the longest-lasting, most durable Water Trucks in the industry. They also offer the most comprehensive lineup of Articulated Custom Bodies available today. Ground Force manufactures over twenty product lines and has factories located in North America, Europe, and South America.