

Original owners take over operations at Titusville plant

► Dan and Jack Roser of Oil City again own the steel components business.

By KAREN CLARK
Staff writer

TITUSVILLE — More than two dozen jobs at a Titusville plant will be salvaged as new local owners take over operations in a multi-million dollar buyout.

Oil City residents Dan and Jack Roser are once again the owners of RTI, a business they began five years ago in the Titusville Oppor-

tunity Park.

The pair started Roser Technologies, Inc., a business providing components for the steel industry, in the fall of 2001. Then, in November 2002, RTI was sold to ESM, a major corporation within the industry that expanded the business.

"They built it bigger, but we feel we can probably double the business in the next 12 to 18 months," Dan Roser said.

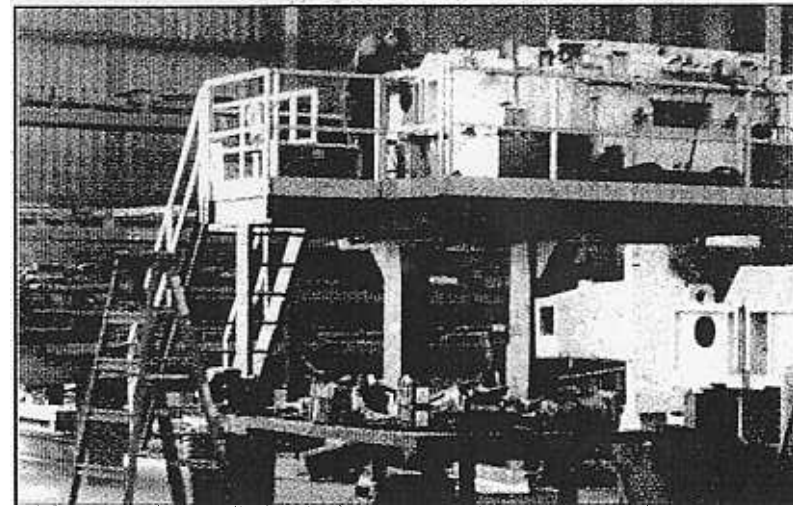
The new owners plan to hire six skilled employees within the next three to four months. "We retained as many jobs of the ESM employ-

ees as possible," Dan Roser said.

RTI added an electrical engineer to its roster last week and plans to incorporate additional CNC machinists, welders, electroplaters and mechanics will be put in place in the upcoming months. With jobs ranging from \$12 to \$24 per hour, wages are above average for the area and include a benefits package, Dan Roser said.

Following the guidelines of the \$3.5 million transaction, the official end of ESM was Aug. 31 and the Rosers began RTI on Sept. 1.

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By Karen Clark

Under the ownership of Dan and Jack Roser of Oil City, RTI in Titusville is pegged for expansion of business and employees. An employee at the facility keeps a watchful eye on plating operations during one of the two daily shifts.

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However, negotiations for the deal began nine months ago. The Rosers were approached in January by officials at ESM who indicated their holding company, Platinum Equity of California, was interested in leaving the Titusville area.

"ESM wanted to shut the facility down months ago. As we began shopping around for a bank, none of the big institutions wanted to help us. Fortu-

nately, Northwest Bank had the ability to see us through. Their concept of being a local community bank played a key role here. Also, without Jim Becker of the Titusville Redevelopment Authority taking the lead, 30 jobs would not be here," Jack Roser said.

The market area for the niche business — which operates as a repair facility for continuous caster segments and as a mold specialist — is centralized in the Pittsburgh and Ohio regions. However, only two other entities across the United States offer like services to customers in the

steel business, opening the doors for future expansion, Dan Roser said.

"We are one of three players in this business in the United States and Canada. Our quality is top in the industry and a spray coating we have developed is also doing pretty good," he said. "We are keying in on the sales force to do a better job."

Dan Roser has nearly 40 years of experience in the steel business, having been employed at the former US Steel/Oilwell in Oil City and at various other business operations throughout the country. Jack Roser, nephew

of Dan, is owner of Rosers Premium Motorcars in Oil City, and was awarded the annual business of the year award in 2004 from the Chamber of Commerce.

The Rosers will split daily duties with Dan in charge of technical sales and Jack in charge of plant operations.

"This is where we wanted to be in five years at the time we started the business. Our five-year plan evolved and ESM also installed a plating operation. This is a good business and I know it can grow. All indications are the industry is going strong for years," Jack Roser said.