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General News

## Sapulpa entrepreneur buys Tulsa parts manufacturer

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TULSA – Craig Sutton of Sapulpa has purchased valve systems manufacturer Roto Hammer Industries of Tulsa for an undisclosed price. Founded in 1959, the west Tulsa company supplies specialty valve operating systems and accessories to the pipe, valve and fitting industry. Its products include chain wheels, extension systems, gear operators and floor stands – which Roto Hammer says may help users save time and improve safety factors – and other products.

Roto Hammer customers include owners and maintenance teams for pipelines, processing plants, chemical and pharmaceutical operations, gas and power plants, water treatment facilities and construction firms.

Sutton, who would not reveal his plans for the company, said his customers are primarily national and international, with few in the Tulsa area.

ThomasNet said that consumer base ranges from western Europe and Africa to the Middle East, Asia, Australia, Europe, Canada, and Mexico.

Dun & Bradstreet Inc. estimated Roto Hammer's employment at 25. ThomasNet listed it from 10 to 49.

Sutton bought Roto Hammer late last year from the estate of Herb Miller, who acquired it in the late 1970s. David L. Perkins, whose Tulsa firm Acquisition Advisors arranged the sale, said Miller had contacted him about arranging a sale about two years ago. Miller died last year in the middle of the project.

This is the second transaction Perkins has handled for Sutton. A decade ago, he helped the Sapulpa businessman sell the company Sefco.

Although Roto Hammer outsources some parts manufacturing to China, Perkins said the majority of work remains at its 2804 W. 40th St. headquarters in Tulsa. He said Sutton intends to keep that Tulsa base.

“Craig Sutton is the perfect buyer for Roto Hammer,” said Perkins. “It's also satisfying to have a local business sell to a local buyer.

Unfortunately, it's rather rare these days but nice to see when it happens.”

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