



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Hobbs Bonded Fiber  
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**Hobbs Bonded Fibers is awarded \$30 million contract**  
Company will produce sound insulation for automotive industry

WACO, Texas—Hobbs Bonded Fibers has been awarded a four-year contract to produce the insulation component of the Rieter Ultra Light™ for UGN, Inc.

UGN, headquartered in Chicago, announced in March that it was building its fourth plant in Jackson, Tenn., to ultimately produce Rieter Ultra Light™ products for the Japanese transplant automobiles.

The finished molded products produced by UGN provide tremendous weight savings and improved acoustic performance for automobiles.

Hobbs Bonded Fibers is building a new line at its Waco location to produce the insulation. The new line will begin production in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Initially, an additional 20-25 employees will be hired to operate the new line. It is projected that the demand for this product will eventually increase the new jobs to more than 100.

“The contract is going to give us a good base for business for the next four to five years. We’re already seeing spin-offs of this contract and are acquiring other business,” said Carey Hobbs, owner of Hobbs Bonded Fibers.

The \$30 million contract will require additional electrical and line mechanics for the fully automated line system. Hobbs will begin the interview process right away.

This spring, Hobbs was awarded a \$290,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission for Skills Development. McLennan Community College was instrumental in Hobbs receiving this grant and will act as the coordinator of this grant. Hobbs will be able to train employees for work required for this new contract as well as retrain present employees. MCC will be active in helping Hobbs use this grant to the fullest extent.

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“Growth and expansion of existing industries are strong components of economic development,” said Bob Davis, chair of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce’s business retention/expansion committee. “Hobbs is a fine example of a local business that is really growing.”

Crews are constructing the new line now to be ready for production in October. This is not the only automotive contract for the company. Hobbs has made thermal and sound insulation material components for Chrysler and is presently producing products for BMW and Isuzu.

Hobbs Bonded Fibers has been in business since 1953 and moved the plant to Waco in 1994. Hobbs currently employs 170.

Hobbs is one of 75 companies the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce economic development division has visited this year through its business retention/expansion program, led by Donna Casstevens, economic development specialist.