

**ITW FOOD EQUIPMENT GROUP SELECTS CHARLOTTE, N.C. AS
THE LOCATION FOR ITS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART
MANUFACTURING PLANT**

*Industry Leader to Manufacture Vulcan-Hart and Wolf Products in
New Facility*

GLENVIEW, Ill. (February 5, 2004) – Illinois Tool Works Inc.'s (NYSE: ITW) Food Equipment Group today announced the selection of Charlotte, N.C. as the location for a new manufacturing facility dedicated to the production of Vulcan-Hart and Wolf commercial cooking equipment.

The selection of Charlotte, N.C. for the company's new state-of-the-art facility followed an extensive, nationwide search.

"We very carefully considered the decision to locate our new facility in Charlotte," said Joe Hahn, vice president of ITW's North American Food Equipment Group. "I am confident our customers across the nation will quickly realize the benefits of the efficiency we're building into both the production line and shipping systems."

Wolf Range Company will move to new corporate offices in Southern California, which will house Finance, Sales and Marketing, Administration, Technical Service and Customer Service.

"ITW's selection of Charlotte for the company's new state-of-the-art facility followed a nationwide search," said North Carolina Governor Mike Easley. "They exemplify the type of company we want in North Carolina by providing sustainable, high-quality jobs for hard-working North Carolina families."

ITW remains fully committed to the Vulcan and Wolf product lines' distinctive appearances and functionalities. Each brand will retain its individual identity in the commercial cooking marketplace.

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“With more than 600 business units in its company portfolio, ITW is dedicated to striking a careful balance between business simplification and the preservation of our very unique brands,” said Hahn. “This philosophy enables us to bring competitive pricing, top-notch products and superior service to our valued customers.”

The groundbreaking for the new facility is scheduled for early February. Over the next several months, ITW will transition elements of the Wolf and Vulcan manufacturing processes to the new plant as well as to the existing operation in Baltimore. The company expects the transition to be complete in the fourth quarter of 2004.

"This shows that we are continuing to succeed at meeting our strategic goals of filling the gap in manufacturing jobs with growth companies like Illinois Tool Works," said Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory

Charlotte, N.C. boasts one of the nation's healthiest economies. The more than 1,200 manufacturing firms with operations in Charlotte focus on everything from textiles and metal working to chemicals and non-electrical and electrical machinery. Its prime location at the intersection of two major interstates also makes Charlotte an ideal location for product distribution centers.

"We are excited about ITW's decision to bring new manufacturing jobs to this community. Their move helps our effort to renew growth in the manufacturing sector," said Mecklenburg County Commission Vice Chairman Dan Ramirez

“Many American companies face greater overseas competition today than they ever have,” said Hahn. “It is imperative that organizations continuously improve their business results and better position themselves in the marketplace to ensure long-term sustainability. We believe the new plant is a major step in that direction for ITW.”

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ITW is a \$10 billion diversified manufacturer of highly engineered components and industrial systems. The company consists of approximately 625 decentralized operations in 44 countries and employs some 47,500 people. Vulcan-Hart and Wolf Range Company are independent operating divisions of ITW.

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