

TAM International's new manufacturing plant is expected to open by June 2013.



RENDERING COURTESY OF TAM INTERNATIONAL

TAM oilfield services company expands Houston operations

BY CONNIE LEWIS
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TAM International Inc., an independent oilfield service company, plans to build a new 126,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, as well as 17,000 square feet of office space in northwest Houston.

Construction at the 26-acre site at the intersection of U.S. Highway 290 and Pinemont Drive is scheduled to begin in June and be completed in June 2013. It will cost \$20 million to build and equip the plant, said John Robinson, director of manufacturing.

Its products include inflatable and so-called swellable packers. In oil and gas wells, a packer is a piece of downhole equipment that consists of a sealing device, a holding or setting device and an inside passage for fluids. When set at the production level, it is expanded to form a seal around the outside of the tubing.

At present, 44-year-old TAM is operating in a 60,000-square-foot facility on Southerland Road. When the new plant is completed, the company will use its older facility for research and development, Robinson said.

"We are expanding our research and development, so we can address more market requests, therefore we have to relocate manufacturing," he said.

In addition to its Houston headquarters, TAM has offices in 25 countries, including regional offices in Scotland, Canada, Columbia and Australia.

At present TAM has 350 employees globally, including 200 in Houston. The expansion will prompt the need for an additional 150 workers at the manufacturing plant, which

TAM INTERNATIONAL INC.

HQ: Houston

TOP EXEC: L. Bentley Sanford, owner and president

EMPLOYEES: 350 worldwide (200 in Houston)

FOUNDED: 1968

OPERATIONS: Houston; and regional offices in Scotland, Canada, Columbia and Australia

INDUSTRY: Manufacturer of oilfield products

WEB: tamintl.com

will bring that total to 300 within a couple of years after the new plant opens.

David Gray, TAM's director for global business development, said one factor driving the expansion of both the manufacturing side and the R&D side of the business is increased demand from oil field clients engaged in multistage well completions in shale plays, as well as deepwater drilling.

The new facility will be designed and built with the goal of obtaining LEED Silver certification. Houston-based KDW Ltd. is the general contractor and designer.

Keith Dalton, owner and president of KDW, a commercial and industrial builder, said the energy sector has contributed to many recent manufacturing projects in the region. ■



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