

## **Schuff International Inc. buys Eloy steel-fabrication plant**

by **Max Jarman** - Sept. 3, 2008 12:00 AM

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Phoenix-based Schuff International Inc. has purchased a 130,000-square-foot steel-fabrication plant in Eloy to fuel future expansion. The 11-year-old facility was acquired from California competitor Strocal Inc for an undisclosed amount.

Schuff Vice President Robb Waldrep said the company plans to boost production at the facility which has lagged in recent years. That will mean hiring a number of new employees.

"We hope to get the workforce up to about 150," Waldrep said. Currently, less than 100 people work at the plant, which has been "winding down." Waldrep said Schuff will retain most of the existing employees.

"We want to beef up the facility and get local workers back on the job," he said.

Schuff, whose principal operating unit is Schuff Steel Co., is the largest steel fabricator and erector in the United States with annual sales of approximately \$730 million. Schuff produces the steel beams and girders that are used to frame major construction projects around the country.

Company president Scott Schuff said acquisition of the Eloy facility is a key expansion move that will help support the 32-year-old company's record growth.

"This location and added capacity will help us deliver more of our specialty services to the region," Schuff said.

The 11-year-old Eloy plant can produce more than 30,000 tons of specialty fabricated steel per year and will supply construction projects throughout the West.

Schuff has a number of projects underway in metro Phoenix including the Phoenix Convention Center, the Phoenix Children's Hospital expansion, the Glendale Spring Training Facility and the expansion of Terminal 4 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

It also is building the Conference Center and Regal Cinema movie-theater complex at L.A. Live, a 27-acre mixed-use development in downtown Los Angeles that is said to be the city's largest development project. Steel for the Los Angeles job is being fabricated at plants in Phoenix and Flagstaff.

Completed Arizona projects include Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, University of Phoenix Stadium, Chase Field, Scottsdale Fashion Square and numerous hospitals and medical centers.

The Eloy plant is Schuff's fourth steel-fabrication facility in Arizona and its ninth nationwide. Besides plants in Eloy, Phoenix and Flagstaff, Schuff also operates a facility in Gilbert. Out-of-state facilities are located in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Nevada and Texas.

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