TEXTRON AVIATION ACQUIRES ABLE ENGINEERING

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Textron Aviation has expanded its component repair capabilities with the acquisition of Mesa, Ariz.-based Able Engineering & Components Service and Able Aerospace. Founded in 1982, Able provides component repairs, exchanges and replacement parts for both fixed-wing and commercial rotorcraft. The company has developed more than 2,800 proprietary FAA-approved component repairs. Its work covers a range of helicopter, commercial and military aircraft and engine components. Able, which employs 500 workers, also is a preferred provider for a number of helicopter operators and airlines.

Textron Aviation president and CEO Scott Ernest called Able “a natural fit” for the company and said that the acquistion broadens its offerings. “This acquisition aligns with our strategy to enhance MRO,” Ernest said. “We believe Able adds tremendous value for aircraft parts and maintenance that will reduce lead time for aircraft parts and increase aircraft availability.”

Able Engineering CEO Lee Benson said Able had worked closely with Textron management over the past year “to ensure the acquisition by Textron is beneficial to all our stakeholders.”

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Textron Aviation said it has no plans to make any organizational or operational changes to Able. “The team is doing a great job and we have no intention to disrupt the work they are doing with customers,” a spokeswoman said.

The acquisition brings in-house a company that once was at odds with Textron Aviation sister company Bell. Bell had sued Able over whether its component work constituted repairs or alterations, alleging trademark infringement. That case was dismissed in 2003, but nearly a decade later Bell and Able “chart[ed] a new relationship” through a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on repairs.

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