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By CHRIS ANDERSON of the Pantagraph

Normal - NuAir Corp. of Normal has been purchased by SC2, a Peoria company that provides contract services to original manufacturers.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but the ownership change becomes effective Thursday. All 80 NuAir employees will be retained to continue making air filters, fabricated metal parts, powder coat applications and providing supervised labor for jobs related to parts handling, sub-assembly and sequencing.

NuAir provides products and services to Mitsubishi Motors North America, Caterpillar, Toyota, State Farm Insurance, and Iron-A-Way.

Matt Martin, SC2 vice president, said the Normal business at 2219 W. College Ave. will continue operating under the NuAir name for now. Eventually, SC2 officials will probably place the SC2 label on fabricated metal parts and supply chain services, such as powder coating and the labor supervision program.

NuAir owner William Galloway plans to retire. Martin said SC2 has been on "the acquisition trail" for more than a year. Discussions with Galloway convinced SC2 officials that NuAir would fit their model of serving similar customers, providing supply chain services and filling business gaps for SC2.

"They will mainly fill a gap we have with some customers who would like us to fabricate metal and powder coat it. We are the largest downstate powder coating business," said Martin.

SC2 formerly was called Superior Consolidated Industries. Founded in 1983 in Tremont by David Schmidgall, the company provided abrasive blasting services to Central Illinois companies.

Acquisition of NuAir gives SC2 eight facilities. The others are located in Peoria, East Peoria, Delavan and Mapleton. The purchase further boosts total employment to 800 works operating in more than 1 million square feet. Employees have owned the company since 1987.

"That provides a new opportunity to the NuAir employees. We are unique in that the employees own 100 percent of the company. We're QS-9000 certified (an automotive industry quality standard) and use Six Sigma methods for process improvement," said Martin.

NuAir had also incorporated Six Sigma methods. The program looks at all practices within manufacturing. The evaluation leads to a reduction in errors of three defects per 1 million products made.

"We lower the cost of quality. We also try to streamline the supply chain and help in the transition from one supplier to another. The need for our services continues to grow. We want to take those services outside of Central Illinois," said Martin.