

WATERTOWN EXPANSION

RITALKA, Inc. (www.ritalka.com) and its subsidiary SpecSys Inc. (www.specsys.org) are excited to announce their expansion into Watertown, S.D. With six physical locations established throughout rural Minnesota, this 110,000-square-foot Watertown facility will assist with the rapid growth being experienced today.

SpecSys continues to see tremendous growth opportunity in its contract manufacturing and engineering services. The company provides 20,000 hours per month of manufacturing, and 5,000 hours per month of engineering services to many world class equipment OEM's. "You are hard pressed to find a major equipment manufacturer in the world that we do not have an existing relationship with," said Kevin R. Wald, CEO.

Watertown Development Company Executive Director Craig Atkins said he's excited about RITALKA's announcement and what it means for the community. "The investment and creation of high quality, good paying jobs shows our continued success in attracting companies like RITALKA to Watertown," Atkins said. "We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with the company."

While the existing Minnesota locations will continue to perform at full employment, the Watertown facility will help fulfill expanding growth in both manufacturing and engineering. Currently, SpecSys is on course to double its output of service hours in the next three years. Because of the sheer size of the equipment designed and built, adding square footage, as well as tapping into a larger labor market is critical to the SpecSys growth plan.

SpecSys serves its clients in the following markets: Construction, Agriculture, Railroad, Mining, Utilities, Power Generation, Aviation, and Oil & Energy. "We are proud not only of our diverse clientele, but the geographical reach of our efforts. Often, 50% of the products manufactured end up on foreign soil or on/in foreign oceans. SpecSys truly appreciates the discussions of a shrinking globe."

Watertown Mayor Steve Thorson said, "We are excited that RITALKA has chosen Watertown to expand its company in Watertown. RITALKA has a proven success record and will be a big boost to the local economy. It's an excellent addition to our local manufacturing industry and a positive impact on area workforce."

"We cannot say enough good things about how well the City of Watertown has embraced our expansion to its community. We have found the same rural welcome that we experience at our Minnesota locations and we are very proud of our rural roots. I married a Minnesota girl, but South Dakota has always held a piece of my soul. It feels a little bit like coming home. Since I wrestled and played football against the Watertown Arrows in HS, I will have to retool my thoughts a little bit in that they are no longer the competition, but part of my team," said Wald.

Kevin is a 1981 graduate of Pierre, SD high school, and holds a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Minnesota, and a MBA from the Univ. of St. Thomas.

SpecSys/RITALKA was formed in 1997 by founder Kevin R. Wald as a home based consulting business in Montevideo, MN. It has grown to more than 225 employees and 500,000 square foot of facilities in seven locations.

Funding for this project was provided by a consortium including financing from the city of Watertown, Watertown Development Company and a South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development REDI Fund loan.

