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Continental Teves brake caliper plant in Fletcher hiring 100 workers

By John Boyle • August 18, 2010

FLETCHER — With the outlook for car production up despite the recession, auto parts manufacturer Continental Teves said Tuesday it will hire an additional 100 people to work at the company's Fletcher plant.

"We are trying to get the word out that we are hiring," plant manager Bobby Nelon said. "As depressed as employment is in Western North Carolina, we want people to know there are jobs out there."

Continental Teves' Fletcher plant employs about 330 people making brake parts. The company has hired about 40 people since announcing in July 2009 plans for a \$30 million plant expansion.

Plans now call for adding another 100 workers, at a rate of 10-15 people a month.

And the hiring will continue after that.

"Our plan is to be greater than 600 employees in the 2013 time frame," Nelon said. "We're on that course real well, and we want to continue."

About 90 of the 100 jobs are hourly positions, with average wages ranging from \$12-\$15.75, with full benefits. Pay for salaried positions will vary depending on skills and experience.

The global car market is driving the expansion.

"At the beginning of the year, the experts were predicting that maybe 10 million cars would be built in the NAFTA region (the U.S., Canada and Mexico)," Nelon said. "That volume now looks greater than 12 million — about 12.5 million. And better economic times mean we need more workers."

Most new cars, SUVs and light trucks now have four-wheel disc brakes, meaning they use brake calipers on all four wheels.

Cars used to have drum brakes on the rear as

standard equipment.

"We do front and rear calipers here, and we have some new technology — a combination rear caliper/parking brake built into the mechanism — that makes the vehicle lighter and improves gas mileage," Nelon said. "That's also helped."

How to apply

Information about salaried positions is available at www.careers-continental.com. The N.C. Employment Security Commission offices in Asheville and Hendersonville can take applications for hourly positions. Hendersonville ESC office: 26 Francis Road. 693-1703. esc.jobs.hendersonville@ncesc.gov. Asheville ESC office: 48 Grove St., Asheville. 251-6200. esc.jobs.asheville@ncesc.gov.

About Continental Teves

One of the world's largest automotive suppliers, Continental Teves has local plants in Fletcher and in Morganton. The Fletcher plant makes brake calipers and employs 330 people. The Morganton plant makes anti-lock brakes and employs 450 people.

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