

Durbin lauds Elastec/American Marine for innovation

Company played role in cleaning up Gulf oil spill

By Len Wells

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FAIRFIELD, Ill. — During a visit to Elastec/American Marine's manufacturing plant here Wednesday, Illinois U.S. Senator Dick Durbin lauded the company for its innovation.

Headquartered at Carmi, Ill., Elastec manufactures oil spill cleanup equipment and played a key role in the cleanup of oil spilled in the Gulf of Mexico from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in 2010.

There the company deployed its patented Hydro-Fire Boom in the Gulf and burned off huge volumes of crude oil before it had a chance to wash onto shore. Last year, Elastec won the \$1 million Wendy Schmidt X-Prize for the development of a grooved drum skimmer with an 89.5 percent oil recovery efficiency.



Submitted photograph Ill. Sen Dick Durbin, right, meets with Elastec/American Marine CEO Donnie Wilson Wednesday at the company's Fairfield, Ill., plant.

Elastec's Fairfield plant manufactures confinement boom for the domestic and overseas market.

"Eighty percent of our product is manufactured for export," said Elastec CEO Donnie Wilson. "Our biggest domestic contract at the moment is with the U.S. Navy."

Wilson said his biggest export clients are in Russia. They also export products to Brazil, Singapore and scores of other countries around the world.

"I expect you'll become well-established with the government through your contract with the U.S. Navy," Durbin said. "The story of how this company has grown through innovation and hard work is simply amazing."

Elastec recently moved its manufacturing facilities from Florida to Fairfield.

Asked by Durbin about differences in operating a manufacturing plant in the two states, Wilson said, "At the Florida facility, if you could get the workers to show up, they did a good job. Here in Southern Illinois, where many of our workers are from farm or oil field families, they always show up, work hard and are team players."

Elastec/American Marine currently utilizes more than 200,000 square feet of space in four manufacturing and warehousing facilities in Southern Illinois and Cocoa, Fla. Four satellite sales offices are located in Virginia, Turkey and China.

The company currently has 140 employees — 35 of them at the Fairfield plant.

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