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## **Wise Alloys Sells Machine Shop Operations**

*New Business to Operate as Subsidiary of Parent Company*

MUSCLE SHOALS, ALA. -- Wise Alloys, LLC has sold its machine shop to a new Wise Metals Group business, Listerhill Total Maintenance Center, LLC, company officials announced today.

The Total Maintenance Center will operate as a separate business from the Wise Alloys aluminum facility and will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Wise Metals Group, the parent company of Wise Alloys.

“The maintenance center was built in the 1960s by Reynolds to service its large manufacturing complex,” said Horace Crowden, president of the new maintenance center. “It is one of the largest facilities of its type in the Southeast.”

It consists of over 180,000 square-feet of shop space and equipment, Crowden said, and will service Wise Alloys but its major growth will come from businesses other than Wise Alloys.

“We believe that there is a significant opportunity for a large facility of this type in our region and envision growing this business from the current handful of people to well over 100 employees,” said Crowden. “We’ve already added 13 jobs to this operation here as we’ve gone through the process of setting up the new business.”

It has taken more than a year of planning from the initial idea to create the new company, Wise Metals Group officials said. That planning included negotiating a new labor agreement. The International Association of Machinists talked with the employees, who decided that to be represented by the IAM.

“We have negotiated an agreement with the IAM that provides the flexibility needed for a business like this to compete while maintaining the excellent pay and benefits that many of these employees enjoyed while they were employed by Wise Alloys,” said Crowden. “The formation of LTMC has also allowed us to hire many of the machinists that were on layoff from Wise.”

According to Crowden, IAM job steward Terry Allen played a key individual in setting up this new business.

“Terry was an important part of this effort, especially in working out the details related to the new contract,” Crowden explained.

The maintenance center will compete for work from local companies that until recently has been sent outside of the Shoals area to places such as Pittsburgh, Chicago and Atlanta. The facility will also compete to bring work here from other areas, including international locations.

George Clark, president of Manufacture Alabama, applauded Wise officials on their efforts to fight for jobs that have been sent outside of Alabama, citing a statewide 17 percent drop in manufacturing jobs over the last year.

“It’s important that every last manufacturing job be saved that we can,” Clark said. “These jobs add so much to the state and local economies.

“We have received very positive comments from our employees and the businesses that we have contacted,” Crowden added. “I believe that our employees are eager to show that they can operate a successful business.”

In the near future, representatives of the LTMC will be contacting local area businesses that may require the services the maintenance center has to offer.

“Our goal is to be a very competitive world class operation,” said Crowden. “We intend to be a leader in promoting job growth in the Shoals area.”

Based in Muscle Shoals, Ala., Wise Alloys is the third-leading U.S. producer of aluminum can stock for the beverage and food industries. It is an environmentally friendly company that relies heavily on recycled aluminum in the production of its can stock. Its sister company, Wise Recycling, is one of the largest, direct-from-the-public collectors of aluminum beverage containers in the United States, operating shipping and processing locations east of the Mississippi River that support a network of neighborhood collection centers.

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