



## JLG will recall some workers

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer

Oshkosh Corp. plans to call back some of the workers laid off from JLG Industries to help fulfill a \$1 billion defense contract.

Company spokesperson Ann Stawski did not have an estimate of how many workers would be recalled.

"We are looking at production capacities at our facilities," she said.

Oshkosh was awarded a \$1.06 billion contract to build new off-road vehicles to outfit ground forces in Afghanistan.

Stawski said the 2,244 vehicles will be manufactured in plants in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. The truck's cabs will be built in McConnellsburg.

Work has already begun.

"We actually started here in the past month, in June, in anticipation of the award, and we expect to have the first batch for delivery in August," Stawski said.

The order carries a nine-month delivery schedule.

The Defense Department says it urgently needs

strong protective trucks that are also light and can maneuver Afghanistan's rocky terrain.

JLG Industries, a subsidiary of Oshkosh, makes aerial access equipment for commercial and military use. In response to a downturn in construction markets and tighter credit markets, the company has laid off more than half of its work force, including production and administrative workers at McConnellsburg, Shippensburg, Bedford and Hagerstown, Md., and at other locations.

In June, JLG announced it is closing its plant in Oakes, N.D., by the end of September. A company spokesman said the remaining 61 positions at Oakes will be cut by Sept. 24.

Oshkosh said it is too early to know how many jobs its new billion-dollar military contract will create, but the number is "significant."

The Oshkosh, Wis.-based company beat out BAE Systems -- the U.S. subsidiary of British defense conglomerate BAE Systems PLC -- as well as Navistar International Corp. and Force Dynamics, a joint venture between Force Protection Inc. and General Dynamics Corp.

The military has said it needs a hybrid armored vehicle to provide the same type of protection as the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles have in Iraq. But it must be far more agile, lighter and provide increased maneuverability to handle Afghanistan's rocky terrain.

The new MRAPs are intended to replace

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Humvees being used in Afghanistan.

Stawski did not have current employment numbers for JLG. She said company-wide, Oshkosh employs about 12,000.

-- The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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