



McConnellsburg's JLG gets \$51M contracts for ATLAS forklifts

Staff report

McCONNELLSBURG -- JLG Industries of McConnellsburg has received two orders to build all-terrain forklifts for the U.S. Army worth about \$51 million.

JLG will build a total of 311 All Terrain Lifter Army System (ATLAS II) telescopic forklifts. The first shipments are to support U.S. Army logistics in Afghanistan.

"The ATLAS II telescopic forklift can reach over obstacles to place loads, weighing up to 10,000 pounds, into trucks or shipping containers," said Denny Buterbaugh, JLG's vice president -- government products and programs. "The tremendous versatility of these rugged machines, combined with their exceptional rough-terrain capability and JLG's history of quality performance in the field were three of the factors why the U.S. Army chose JLG for its rough-terrain material-handling equipment needs."

JLG spokesman Jeff Ford said the company has received previous contracts for its original ATLAS units, but this is the first contract for the ATLAS II series of rough-terrain forklifts, which boast significant performance enhancements over the original ATLAS design.

These improvements include reduced emissions and the addition of several multifunctional attachments.

Manufactured in McConnellsburg, the ATLAS II machines will supplement the 2,500 original ATLAS units being utilized by the U.S. Army in operations around the world.

Ford said defense contracts have "helped quite a bit" as the commercial construction industry remains weak.

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