

Growth to net Florida Turbine tax savings

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Florida Turbine Technologies is to save as much as \$104,612 in taxes in return for commitments to Palm Beach County.

The county's Business Development Board said the ad valorem tax exemption is to give the company a four-year exemption of about \$26,153 a year.

The Jupiter-based company has been in Palm Beach County since 1998.

Originally founded as a service business to large gas turbine manufacturers, Florida Turbine is now a full-service gas turbine design, testing, manufacture and support business.

The company also develops products for the military and space programs,.

In 2005, the county approved a job growth incentive grant for the addition of 50 jobs, the same year Florida Turbine bought the GE building on Marquette Road in Jupiter.

The company has been renovating the building to house its business and to lease to tenants.

"Their continued growth and renovations to the building qualified them for the exemption," the BDB said. "For this program Florida Turbine has committed to adding at least 60 high-technology jobs in the next four years, although their expectations for growth are much higher."

BDB President Kelly Smallridge said the company's presence in Palm Beach County complements and provides additional depth to the county's aerospace/aviation/engineering cluster.

"The cluster is a vital part of the economy in Palm Beach County, providing high-quality, high-wage jobs and attracting similar companies to the area," she added.