

Weatherby Inc. to relocate to Sheridan

- By Carrie Haderlie, Wyoming Business Report



Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and Ed Weatherby of Weatherby, Inc., during a Facebook Live event at the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nev.
Facebook Live

After 70 years in California, American firearms manufacturer Weatherby Inc. will move its headquarters to Sheridan.

“Three years ago, after being in California for 70 years, we began a search amongst a number of Western states to find a new home for Weatherby,” Adam Weatherby, president of Weatherby Inc. said in a Facebook Live event at the SHOT Show in Las Vegas Tuesday.

“It was one year ago that we met in a conference with Gov. Mead of Wyoming and the Wyoming Business Council team,” Weatherby said.

On Thursday, the State Loan and Investment Board approved a \$12,592,090 grant to the Sheridan Economic and Educational Development Authority Joint Powers Board for a 100,000 square-foot building in the Sheridan High-Tech Business Park to house “Project Enterprise”—until Tuesday, the identity of the company to occupy the space was confidential.

In his announcement Tuesday, Weatherby said that his company asked the State of Wyoming for support if they were to move to Wyoming.

“At that meeting, it was obvious to us that Wyoming wanted us there, so much so that the governor was personally recruiting us. He gave us his cell phone number and said, ‘Hey, if you need anything, let me know,’” Weatherby said. “I knew at that moment then that they were serious.”

When the Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board “voted unanimously for some incentives” Weatherby said, “there was no turning back.”

Mead said that he does not want Wyoming “to be a firearms state.”

“We want to be the firearms state,” Mead said to a crowd in Las Vegas.

A crowd also gathered at Blacktooth Brewing Company in Sheridan to watch a live stream of the event event.

“Light manufacturing is the holy grail of economic development,” said Sen. Dave Kinskey of Sheridan and Johnson counties. “Making things is America’s strength, and is a good fit for rural Wyoming. There are no smokestacks — just good, steady jobs.”

Project Enterprise, now known to be Weatherby, expects to employ 70 to 90 workers in jobs paying an average of \$60,000 to \$74,000 by 2023.

Weatherby said there is a team of architects working on the brand new facility in Sheridan, “right up next to the Bighorn Mountains.” It should be complete by 2019.

Mead said that it is “uniquely American to build wonderful rifles.”

“This is something that we have been looking forward to, and we have been so excited about,” Mead said. “When you have a company like Weatherby that is known throughout the world, to have them in the state of Wyoming to build on what we already have ... it is an accumulation of a lot of work over the years.”

Kinsky echoed similar sentiments.

“Hats off to all the dedicated people in Sheridan and Johnson counties, and in Cheyenne, who drove these efforts to fruition. It is these folks who are building a better future for generations to follow,” he said.