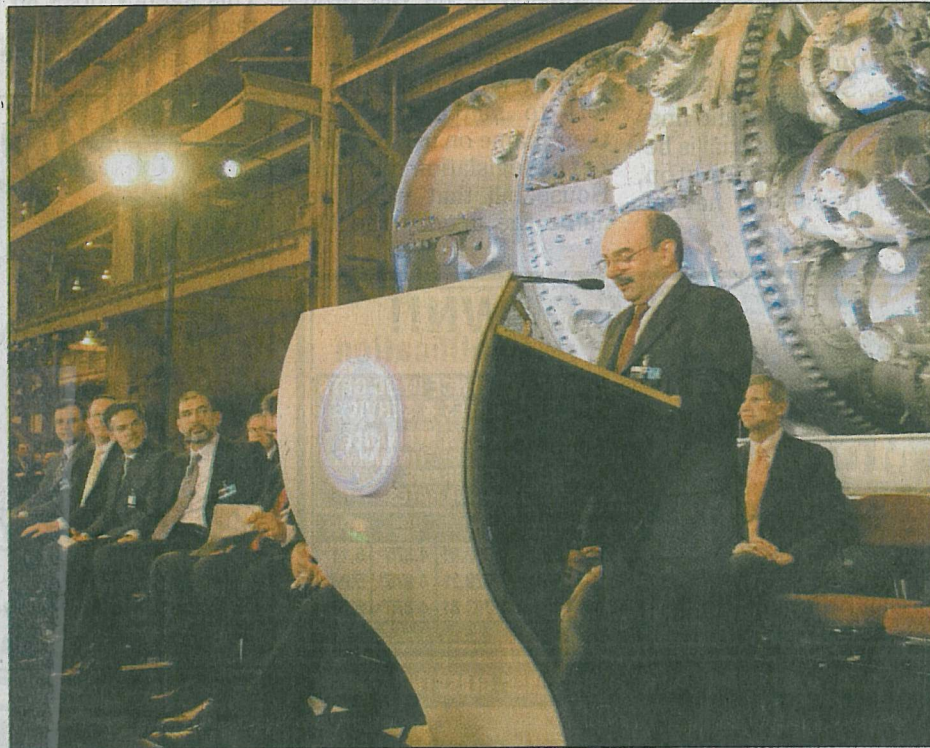


GE powers up turbine business



FILE / Staff

Ali Saleh Albarrak, CEO of Saudi Electricity Co., speaks to General Electric employees in Greenville in 2007.

Greenville plant to fill Saudi power company order

By Rudolph Bell

BUSINESS WRITER

dbell@greenvillenews.com

General Electric Co. said Wednesday that its plant in Greenville would fill an order from a Saudi Arabian power company for nearly \$1 billion worth of electricity-generating turbines.

Bill Standera, general manager of North American manufacturing for GE's Energy unit, said the Greenville plant would build all of more than 30 Frame 7EA turbines ordered by the Saudi Electricity Co.

While the big piece of business won't lead to more jobs, it will keep the assembly lines moving for the time being, Standera said.

"If this order didn't come through, we'd be facing very tough times," he said.

Standera said more than 90 percent of the plant's orders for electricity-generating turbines that burn fossil fuels are coming from overseas right now, with the Saudi Electricity Co. a huge customer.

GE said the Riyadh-based power company has ordered nearly \$2.5 billion worth of turbines and associated equipment over the past three years.



Standera

Ali Saleh al-Barrak, chief executive of the Saudi Electricity Co., visited the Greenville plant in 2007 to help celebrate the shipping of the 1,000th F-class turbine.

The Greenville plant is also helping a GE plant in Belfort, France, fill a 56-turbine order worth nearly \$3 billion. That order, announced in December, was placed by the government of Iraq.

GE employs about 3,200 in Greenville, which is the engineering headquarters for its Energy unit as well as a major manufacturing site for turbines that use fossil fuels or wind to generate electricity. The local plant also makes jet engine parts.

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