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LA JUNTA & THE ARKANSAS VALLEY'S SOURCE OF NEWS SINCE 1896

By Lola Shrimplin
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Rocky Ford, Colo. -

Innovative Water Technologies (IWT), 29625 Industrial Park Road, in Rocky Ford, not only highlights Colorado's innovation in sustainable energy, it also brings economic support to the Lower Arkansas Valley.

The company, which celebrated the opening of its manufacturing facility on Thursday, came to Rocky Ford chiefly because of the community involvement, Carmen Barker said.

Carmen and her husband Jack are the owners of IWT, and Carmen had nothing but praise for the city of Rocky Ford.

"What really solidified the deal was your community," she said.

Proving that the community was truly involved, cars filled the IWT parking lot and people flooded into the building to get a tour of the new facility before full-scale production begins.

IWT is the inventor and developer of the Sunspring, a portable, self-contained, solar-powered water purification system for remote local and international locations.

The system provides up to 5,000 gallons per day of clean and safe drinking water to remote areas.

Sunspring physically removes pathogens, particulates and turbidity from virtually any water source. It is a solar powered microbiological water purifier that is self cleaning, efficient and easy to maintain.

"Wouldn't it be nice if the whole world could take safe drinking water for granted the way we do," Jack said.

The business has seven employees and will hire another five or six next week, when full-scale production begins, Jack said.

The Barkers hope to have 15-18 employees by the end of the year, he said.

Speaker of the Colorado House, Andrew Romanoff said the new system was "truly amazing" and stressed the importance of the system in a world where people are dying for a lack of clean drinking water.

According to UNICEF, 1.1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water and 5,000 people die every day from water related illnesses.

"This will bring hope and life to a world that desperately needs it," Romanoff said.

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