



The **Wichita Manufacturer's Association** monthly tour meeting for March was held at the **Hawker Beechcraft Corporation** Plant 3 in Wichita, Kansas.



**Beech Aircraft Corporation** was founded in Wichita in 1932 by Walter H. and Olive Ann Beech. In 1980 the company became a subsidiary of **Raytheon Company** and in 1993 acquired **Raytheon Corporate Aircraft**, producer of the Hawker Jetline, from British Aerospace. On March 26, 2007, **Raytheon Aircraft Company** became **Hawker Beechcraft Corporation**, a company formed by **GS Capital Partners**, and **Onex Partners**. **HBC** is the world leader in composite aircraft construction for business aviation and Plant 3 in Wichita is the heart of this technology. The group was allowed to see the fuselage manufacturing processes for both the Hawker 4000 and the Beechcraft Premier 1A.

Following the tour WMA members moved to the Beech Activity Center for dinner and a business meeting. **George Nguyen, Vice President Operations for Hawker Beechcraft** provided an overview and some historic information on the company and talked about their plans for the future. Mr. Nguyen is responsible for all aspects of the company's operations and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience when he joined **Hawker Beechcraft**. The speaker for the evening was **Lorne M. Smith, President of CEO Advisory**. He spoke on the importance of organizational development for manufacturers and some of the challenges facing owners and CEO's of small to mid-sized manufacturing companies in today's environment.



Loren M. Smith  
President  
CEO Advisory



George Nguyen  
Sr. V.P. Operations  
Hawker Beechcraft Corp.