

# Contracting with XCOR brings Minnesota business to Mojave

*Businesses growing businesses*

**BY BILL DEAVER**

MOJAVE — There's an old saying in economic development circles that existing businesses are the best source of attracting new jobs and businesses to a community.

That's certainly the case with a Minneapolis, Minnesota, machining and precision

manufacturing business that leased a building at the Mojave Spaceport last week.

For the last three years, Caztek, a firm headed by Caz Sienkiewicz of Minneapolis, has slowly built up a relationship with XCOR Aerospace of Mojave, helping design and manufacture propellant valves and other machined parts and assemblies for the local company's rocket engines.

"I've worked on some really interesting projects with XCOR," Sienkiewicz said last Friday in XCOR's hangar on the spaceport flightline.

That work and XCOR's expanding fortunes led Sienkiewicz to decide to move to Mojave where he will spend most of his time while keeping a branch in Minnesota. He said he plans to work at XCOR on their projects while opening a

shop in a building on Barnes Street where he and employees he plans to hire will serve other clients.

"I want to continue to do engineering and manufacturing for XCOR and for other aerospace clients," Sienkiewicz explained.

**Grew up in machine shops**

"I grew up in machine shops as a tool-maker, and I guess the  
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key to my success is my ability to do hands-on machining and build things," he said.

"Lots of engineers design things that can't be made!" he said.

Sienkiewicz said he read about XCOR about four years ago and, like many of the growing company's employees, he "walked in the door one day" looking to see if he could become involved with the firm.

The burgeoning space tourism industry "is an industry whose time has come — this is a chance to get in on the ground floor as the industry emerges," he said.

XCOR Chief Executive Officer Jeff Greason said the company relationship with Sienkiewicz has been excellent, and "we're thrilled to be able to be working with him face-to-face."

Commenting on how the company has grown, Sienkiewicz recalled his first visit to Mojave when the company was in part of a building and a portable office on Kinnickuh Street.

"They had six employees — it has really changed!"

Right along with the airport that has become the nation's first commercial spaceport because of companies like XCOR, Scaled, and others.



**NEW BUSINESS** — Caz Sienkiewicz, whose company Caztek based in Minneapolis, is moving to Mojave Spaceport to be closer to XCOR Aerospace, one of major clients. Sienkiewicz has leased a building at the spaceport to provide engineering and precision machining to clients.  
BILL DEAVER/Desert News



**ENGINEER** Caz Sienkiewicz checks measurements on a device he designed and machined for XCOR Aerospace at Mojave Spaceport. Sienkiewicz has leased a building at the spaceport to serve customers in the region.  
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