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## **Winchester Electronics growing**

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**-WALLINGFORD — Winchester Electronics Corp., which makes electronic connectors, has acquired two out-of-state manufacturing companies, officials announced Monday.**

The company, headquartered at 62 Barnes Industrial Road North, acquired Massachusetts-based Advanced Interconnect Inc. and South Carolina-based Kings Electronics Co. Inc.

Financial details of the deals, which closed last week, were not disclosed.

"This is a significant step forward for Winchester Electronics," President and CEO Michael Driscoll said in a written statement, adding that the deal is expected to boost the company's annual sales to more than \$100 million. "The acquisitions will take Winchester into new markets and expand our technological capabilities."

Company spokesman Howard Geltzer could not specify how many employees Winchester Electronics has in Wallingford, but said the company employs 700 workers among its Wallingford headquarters and manufacturing facilities in Mexico, China and Malaysia.

Founded in 1941, Winchester Electronics is a subsidiary of Boston-based Audax Group, which acquired it in June 2006.

Advanced Interconnect and King Electronics each have about 100 employees, Geltzer said. At this time, both companies are retaining their individual names and will operate as subsidiaries of Winchester Electronics. Company officials expect to retain all jobs at both companies, Geltzer said.

The acquisitions allow the company to extend its product offerings, serving markets it previously has not, he said.

"The world of electronic components and technology is expanding," he said, and Winchester Electronics continually seeks "to open new areas. Each company (acquired) has a track record."

Advanced Interconnect, based in Franklin, Mass., makes fiber optic and copper-based connectors, including modules used in computers, telecommunications, data storage and medical sectors of the electronics industry.

King Electronics, based in Rock Hill, S.C., makes connectors used in commercial and military aviation, as well as for broadcasting, telecommunications, industrial and government uses.