

Electronics firm planning big plant here

By LANE WALLACE

A new computer component manufacturer today announced plans to open a production facility on Hangar Way in Watsonville and hire 80 to 100 employees later this year.

The firm, Ultra Magnetics Technology, Inc., foresees growing to 500 employees in five years, said Herb Zeiss, director of personnel and facilities.

The firm, which will make "floppy disk" information storing components for computers, plans to hire local people as much as possible, Zeiss said.

The 80 to 100 people, most in medium level positions such as equipment operator, will be on board when production begins, Zeiss said.

Experience is preferred, but entry level people will be considered, he said.

The firm plans to hire employees in late summer and begin production in the fall. Ultra Magnetics has 20,000 square feet at 5 and 7 Hangar Way, 10,000 of which will be used this year for production.

When the firm expands, it will probably be to a number of different facilities in Watsonville, Zeiss

said. He doesn't foresee any major expansion until 1984.

The firm was formed early this year and has been in temporary offices (without production facilities) at 180 Seventh Ave. in Santa Cruz. There are now 11 employees, all in staff positions.

Zeiss said company president Bill Cooper chose Watsonville because of the receptiveness of city officials, the availability of facilities, and the availability of a work force. (The cost of land in the Santa Clara Valley is generally higher than in Watsonville.)

Cooper, who has more than 20 years experience in the computer business, has held high level positions at Storage Technology Corp., Caelus Memories, Inc., and IBM in the Santa Clara Valley. •

Ultra Magnetics will make 5¼-inch and 8-inch floppy disks, which will be sold to computer-making companies.

The financial backer for the firm is Frank Scott Enterprises of Aptos, a venture capital firm.

Ultra Magnetics will become the fifth electronics firm on Hangar Way. With 80 to 100 employees, it will be one of the five largest electronics companies in the Pajaro Valley.

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