



PRESS PHOTO/ADAM BIRD

A lucrative niche: Electrical engineer Mike Zwagerman tests some connections on a circuit board at Dorner Works.

Engineering services company more than doubles work space

BY KEITH ESSENBURG
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — An engineering services company that started as a one-man operation eight years ago has grown into a firm with more than 30 employees and a knack for filling an important niche in the electronics industry.

To keep pace with its burgeoning workload and employee roster, Dorner Works last week relocated from its original site on Burton Street SE to 3445 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. SE. The 11,000 square

feet more than doubles the company's space.

"We increased (our work force) by 30 percent last year, and we've added several more employees this year," said Tim Walker, vice president of sales and marketing.

The company anticipates sales of about \$5 million in 2008, he said. Dorner Works, founded in 2000 by owner David Dorner, supplies circuitry and software for the aerospace, automotive and medical industries.

The company tackles projects other engineering firms are reluctant to take on be-

cause of government regulations and oversight, Walker said. "A lot of people try to stay away from (this kind of work) because it's hard," he said.

Among the companies that have turned to Dorner Works for its engineering services are Stryker, Johnson Controls, Oliver Products Co., General Electric and Altacor, he said. The company has worked on projects for the design of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, test equipment for the Air Force's F-22 fighter jet, the Airbus A400 and the SmartBeam car headlight.