

Raytheon to boost jobs in '08

The combined employment of the three largest engineering employers in Fort Wayne is expected to increase this year.

That's because Raytheon Network Centric Systems is projecting it will add 75 employees to its work force of 1,100, and employment is expected to be stable at 1,500 for ITT operations in Fort Wayne and at 1,000 for International Truck and Engine.

Because of the cyclical nature of its business, International reduced its work force by 140 last year but it is not expecting further reductions and "work is picking up," said spokesman Jeff Benzing.

Raytheon added 75 employees to its Fort Wayne operations last year, and ITT added 90 employees.

Raytheon provides the U.S. Department of Defense with tactical communications systems and command-and-control software, and most of the increase it anticipates is tied to growth in those areas, said Bruce Menshy, operations director.

Growth at any of the engineering operations helps make the area more attractive to engineering recruits for all of the businesses, he said, because "it gives more (employment) options to people coming into the community."

— BY DOUG LEDUC