

# Duncan Recycling plans \$8M expansion

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NEW YORK — Duncan Recycling & Refining Inc. (DR2) will take delivery of its first plasma-arc smelter in December as part of an expansion that will allow it to bring in-house the recycling of catalytic converters.

The Duncan, Okla.-based company plans to utilize two smelters to extract platinum, palladium and rhodium from spent catalytic converters. The company currently is outsourcing the smelting after purchasing and decanning the converters.

DR2 co-owner and president David Nichols said it will take two weeks to install the equipment and another two to three weeks to be hooked up electrically, followed by a 30-day training and commission period, including a factory acceptance test to become certified.

The first smelter is scheduled to begin its ramp up in mid-February and be running at 10 percent of capacity by March and at full capacity within six months, according to Nichols.

The \$8-million expansion is being supported by public funding. The Duncan City Council approved the use of nearly \$3.97 million in sales tax revenue for a 2,500-square-foot expansion to the building's shell, including front office operations, a security fence, a cooling tower, a backup generator, parking lot, loading docks and a specialized fire suppression system. The funding was secured for DR2 by the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation.

"What this does for our community, and what attracted us to DR2, is the diversity it will create for business and jobs," said Lyle Roggow, president of the economic development foundation.

DR2 operations coordinator Trace Nichols told *AMM* that the company plans to add up to 100 jobs when the second smelter is up and running within two years. The first phase of the expansion will see the company add 65 positions to its current head count, which is in the single digits.

Nichols said the initial wave of 65 new jobs will make DR2 the third-biggest employer in Duncan after [Halliburton Co.](#) and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

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