

Lancaster manufacturer helps COVID-19 testing equipment stay cool

By: Ioannis Pashakis

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Advanced Cooling Technologies in Lancaster develops and manufactures thermal management technology used CT scan machines and DNA testing equipment. PHOTO PROVIDED

Advanced Cooling Technologies in Lancaster has developed and manufactured thermal management technology used in the International Space Station and both communication and defense satellites.

For years the firm has also had a hand in creating technology found in medical equipment, some of which are now being used to research and test for COVID-19. They include a CT scan machine by GE Healthcare and DNA research and testing equipment by INHECO.

Advanced Cooling builds systems that keep machines from overheating. The manufacturer has operated in Lancaster for 17 years and currently employs 150 people at its headquarters in the city.



Jon Zuo, president of Advanced Cooling Technologies. PHOTO PROVIDED

Designated as an essential business due to its work in defense, aerospace and health care, the company only saw a short break in production due to the state's shut down and is nearly back to full operation, said Jon Zuo, president of Advanced Cooling.

"A lot of our office people are indeed working from home but most of our engineers and production and shop floor personnel are working on site," Zuo said.

Advanced Cooling has been building its manufactured thermal management systems for Chicago-based GE Healthcare for 10 years, according to Zuo, who said the company approached them to help solve an issue their machines overheating.

"We worked with them and developed an effective waste heat removal solution and in the end they asked us to manufacture this component for them and we've been in production for almost ten years," he said.

GE Healthcare has seen a surge in need for its CT scanners, and subsequently the thermal management systems made by Advanced Cooling. The systems can be used to visualize the depth of a patient's of lung damage from COVID-19. It can also be used when oral tests aren't available.

The application isn't new for the machine, but their ability to test for the virus has made them critical during the pandemic, said Zuo.

Without Advanced Cooling's components, waste heat in the machines can disrupt the scanner's sensors and distort the resulting picture.

Advanced Cooling also had a hand in building components for DNA replicating machines by Germany-based INHECO. The machines allow researchers to understand the "viral load" of an infected patient and gives insight into its mutations.

"It is often said that real character is revealed during times of crisis and our team has proven time and again that their character is truly admirable," he said.



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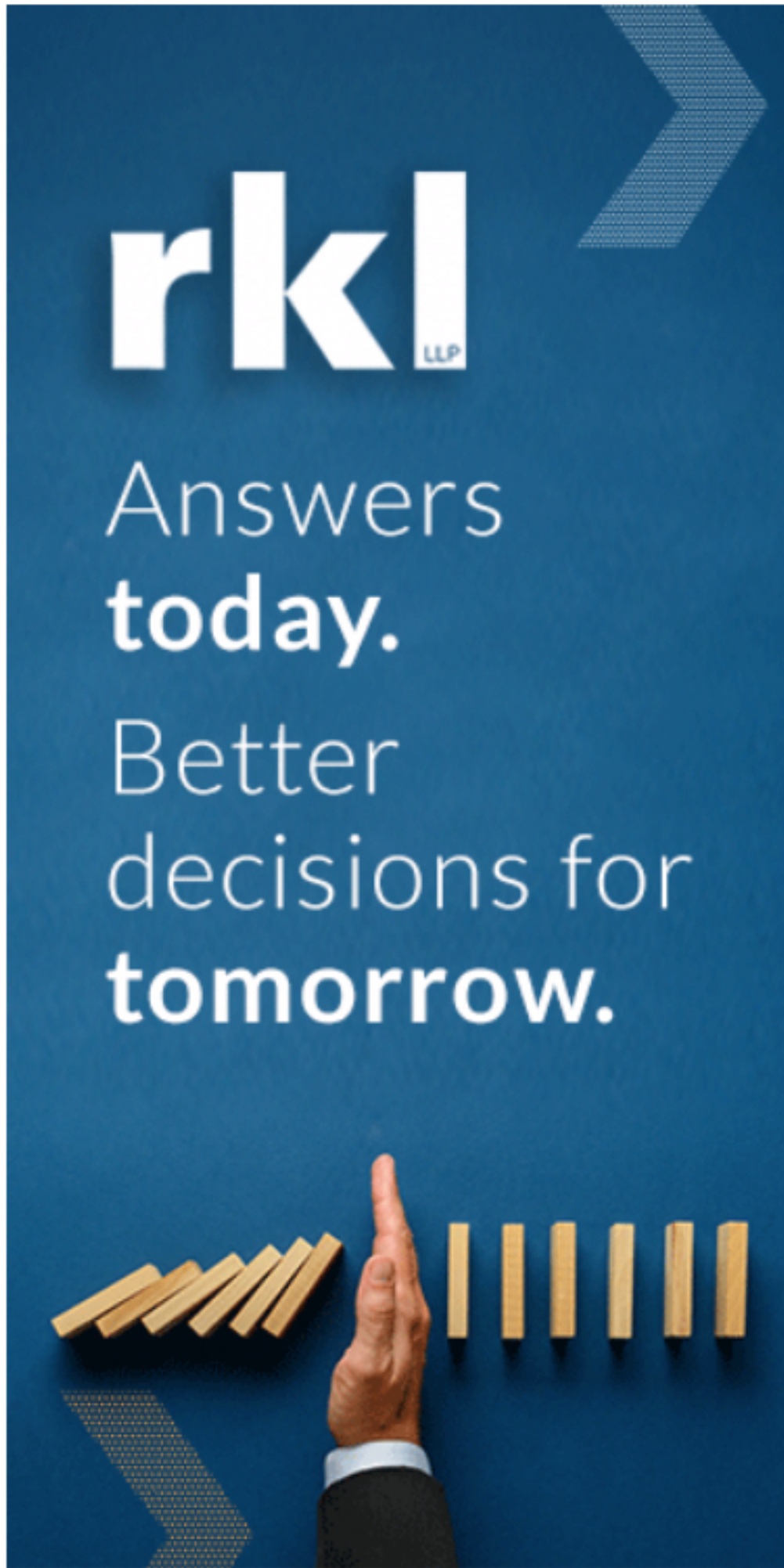
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