Continued from Page 1A

OSCA

"OSCA has the most innovative completion technologies out there," said Rob Coons, BJ Services director of corporate communications.

OSCA was a spin-off from Great Lakes Chemical Corp. when it went public June 15, 2006, raising $60.0 million on 5.6 million shares priced at $15.50. It closed Wednesday up $5.78 at $21.55.

The buyout brings to a close OSCA's unique business model. We can compete with all the large integrated service companies such as Halliburton, BJ and Schlumberger, because of our technology," Hollier said. "We're the only independent that can do that. I don't think there will be another."

Great Lakes Chemical Corp., which owns 51 percent of OSCA's common stock, and the OSCA Board have approved the deal.

"Great Lakes Chemical Company did not like the cyclical nature of this company," Hollier said. "An offer of this size with this premium was quite attractive to them."

Administrative and other layoffs are likely in order for BJ Services to save a projected $15 million to $20 million in operating costs. However, OSCA employees involved in completion tools and fluids have no BJ Services counterparts.

"There will be some redundancies," Hollier said.

BJ Services' East Division operates a number of locations in Louisiana, including a laboratory in Broussard, district offices in Crowley, completion tools in Scott and sales offices in Lafayette. Worldwide, BJ Services employs 11,500.

"We have no idea what we're going to do," Coons said of possible job cuts. "In the past, we've looked at who are the best people and what are the best practices of the company and what will be required to carry that forward."

Employment at OSCA peaked in 1980 at 600. Hollier said, and reached as high as 500 in 2000. Since then, however, an estimated 800 jobs have been eliminated.

"Our employees are recognized as very outstanding," Hollier said. "We have good product offerings and service capabilities. Our customers perceive us as being best in class."

Hollier himself may be with BJ Services only for a while.

"I will make myself available to BJ for (a) period of time through the transition," he said. "I haven't decided what I will do in the future."

But Hollier said OSCA employees would do well to remain with BJ Services, a company that has increased revenues 700 percent over the past seven years to $2.2 billion in 2011.

"I think the company is on very sound foundation," Hollier said.