ITW's Electronics Group Up 6.1%

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GLENVIEW, **IL** – **Illinois Tool Works**' power systems and electronics group reported sales rose 6.1% year-over-year for the period ended Feb. 29. Meanwhile, speculation abounds over a possible acquisition of a leading soldering equipment OEM.

ITW is the parent company of **Speedline Technologies**, **Simco**, **Chemtronics** and **Kester**, amon q others.

ITW reported operating revenues rose 13.8% on acquisitions and currency fluctuations.

The company lowered its 2008 first quarter and full-year earnings estimates due to two special charges with an estimated pretax effect totaling \$127 million. The company guided for revenue growth of 8 to 11% for the quarter and 6 to 10% for the year.

Various outlets are reporting that ITW will acquire **Vitronics Soltec**, a top supplier of soldering equipment. An ITW spokeswomen declined comment, saying the company does not comment on any potential transactions until they are completed.