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Statitrol Corp. Acquired by Emerson Co.

Statitrol Corp., Lakewood-based manufacturer of smoke detection devices, has been acquired by Emerson Electric Co. of St. Louis, Mo., it was announced Thursday.

The acquisition was through an exchange of stock. Statitrol's major shareholder was Central Investment Corp. of Denver, a subsidiary of Dillon Cos. of Hutchinson, Kan. Central Investment held 44½ per cent of the stock outstanding. Statitrol's founder and president, Duane Pearsall, also held a substantial amount of the company's stock.

Emerson Electric wouldn't say how much of its stock was exchanged to acquire Statitrol. The St. Louis company has posted record earnings for 19 consecutive years. Earnings totaled \$116.8 million on revenues of \$1.5 billion for fiscal 1976.

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Major Company Expected To Acquire Statitrol Corp.

By JACK PHINNEY
Denver Post Business Writer

Statitrol Corp., Lakewood manufacturer of smoke detection devices, will be acquired by a major, publicly owned United States company next week.

Statitrol is headed by Duane Pearsall, who was named U.S. Small Businessman of the Year in 1976 by the Small Business Administration.

Statitrol's major shareholder is Central Investment Corp., Denver subsidiary of Dillon Cos., Hutchinson, Kan.

Dillon Cos., which also owns the Denver-based King Soopers supermarket chain, said the Statitrol deal is expected to boost Dillon's earnings by \$2.5 million this quarter. Central Investment Corp. will receive stock in the acquiring company, as yet unidentified, and will be free to sell that stock.

Pearsall, the founder of Statitrol, also is a major shareholder but owns less Stati-

trol stock than does Central Investment, which holds 44½ per cent of the shares outstanding.

Incorporated in 1963, Statitrol makes SmokeGard smoke alarms for use in homes. The company's headquarters and main plant are at 140 S. Union Blvd. in Lakewood, and another plant is at Interstate 70 and Kipling St. in Wheat Ridge.

The Lakewood building was constructed in 1970 and expanded in 1973. The other building previously was used by Fire Alert, a smoke detector manufacturer which moved its operations to the East Coast in 1975.

Pearsall couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday on the impending sale of his company. In an interview a year ago, he said Statitrol's sales volume exceeded \$10 million a year, up from less than \$1 million four years earlier. The company's growth was financed with small-business loans in 1965, 1969 and 1973.