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Masonite International Corporation Announces Expansion in Bamberg County Company to Employ Up to 200

Gov. Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, SouthernCarolina Alliance, Bamberg County, and the City of Denmark held announcement ceremonies on July 21st to announce that Masonite International Corporation, a maker of residential and commercial doors, plans to invest \$14 million in expanding its operations in Bamberg County. More than 250 local business leaders and company employees joined Masonite President and CEO Fred Lynch at the manufacturing facility for the announcement and reception.

“Investing in our Denmark facility made sense on so many levels, beginning with the great local workforce,” said Glen Coulter, executive vice president of Global Operations & Supply Chain. “It’s also conveniently located near several major interstates, near major cus-



Pictured Left to Right are: Jennifer Smith, Communications Manager of Masonite; Mayor Gerald Wright of Denmark; Masonite President and CEO Fred Lynch; Governor Nikki Haley; Masonite Vice President of Operations Mike Fout; Mike Stoddard, Director of Operations for Masonite; and Bamberg County Councilman and SCA Board Member Chris Wilson.

tomers and our company’s Yulee, Fla. door fabrication plant that pre-hangs doors for our Southeast retail customers.”

“We celebrate Masonite’s decision to grow its presence in South Carolina and create new

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Le Creuset Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony For Their Latest Expansion

Le Creuset, the internationally renowned manufacturer of high quality cookware, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of their North American distribution facility in Hampton County. The 100,000 square-foot distribution facility in Early Branch will be expanded by another 200,000 square feet to accommodate company growth, which

will include the addition of 25 jobs and a \$3.6 million capital investment.

“It is such a privilege to welcome you all to our third groundbreaking,” Faye Gooding, CEO of Le Creuset, told a crowd of more than 150 employees and guests at the Oct. 4th ceremony. The event marked the third time that the French manufacturer has built or expanded

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at their current site at the Lowcountry Industrial Park in Early Branch, South Carolina, just off Exit 38 on I-95.

Numerous representatives from state organizations attended the ceremony, including the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, the South Carolina Ports Authority, Hampton County Council, and the Hampton County Economic Development Commission. Members of the Yemassee Town Council and Mayor J.L. Goodwin also attended the event.

Ms. Gooding told the crowd that company owner Paul Van Zuydam visited the Early Branch site with her and chose the site personally, "Paul and I went to the site, climbed under the gate



Leaders from across the state and region gathered for the Le Creuset groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured here, l-r, are: Hampton County Councilmen Chris Haulsee and Buddy Phillips; DeThane Johnson, Vice Chairman of Southern Carolina Alliance; SCA Chairman Johnny Williamson; Hampton County Administrator Sabrena Graham; Craig Lund, National Accounts Manager of the S.C. Ports Authority; Hampton

County Council Chairman Hugh Gray; Hampton County Councilman Shedron Williams; Buddy Bullard of the Hampton County Economic Development Commission Board; Hampton County Councilman Virgin Johnson; Faye Gooding, CEO of Le Creuset North America; Sandy Fowler, Executive Director of Hampton County EDC; Dr. Lamar Priestler of the Hampton County EDC Board of Directors; Project Manager Bob Marriott of the SC Department of Commerce; and Greg Brunson of Brunson Construction Company.

and walked down all of Bob Gifford Boulevard," Gooding recalled. "Paul then told me once he looked around he had always wanted to be a pioneer, so let's do this."

"We thank you for all of your support of existing business," Gooding added, thanking the local, regional and state agencies. "It is heartwarming to know you care about local businesses and will help us to grow."

Gooding said, "I also want to thank all of the wonderful employees we have here at LeCreuset. You won't find better people, and I am proud to call Hampton County the home of Le Creuset of America."

Hampton County Council Chairman Hugh Gray also added his congratulations to the company on its expansion, "It's a red letter day and a defining moment in Hampton County for Le Creuset. We congratulate you on this achievement."

The company expects to have the first 100,000 additional square feet of the expansion completed by the first quarter of 2012, with the additional 100,000 square feet planned for 2013. The distribution center will service North American operations, including Le Creuset's growing e-commerce business from online sales.

SCA wishes to acknowledge Shellie Murdaugh, Publisher of LowcountryUS.Net, who contributed to this article.

The Doc Depot Announces Expansion in Barnwell County New operations expected to create 50 new jobs

The Doc Depot Inc., a medical document retrieval service, announced plans on October 25th to expand its existing operations in Barnwell County. The \$250,000 investment is expected to generate 50 new jobs.

"We are pleased to expand our presence in Barnwell County. This growth will help us meet increased customer demand. South Carolina has offered us an excellent business environment and a talented workforce that has helped us achieve success," said John Leonard, president and CEO of The Doc Depot.

The Doc Depot is expanding and relocating from its current 3,000-square-foot facility, located in the Barnwell County Airport Industrial Park, to its new 6,000-square-foot facility in Williston. The expansion is expected to be completed this month.

"We celebrate The Doc Depot's decision to increase its footprint in Barnwell County and create 50 new jobs. This announcement is another win for one of our state's rural areas," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"South Carolina offers business a strong foundation on which to build success, and The Doc Depot's decision to expand here is another indication of that fact," said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

"We applaud Doc Depot's continued commitment to Barnwell County. The attention to existing companies, as well as the recruitment of new industry, continues to create new job opportunities for this area," said Pete Grady, chairman of the Barnwell County EDC.

"This is great news for Barnwell County and the Town of Williston and we appreciate Doc Depot's continued support of, and confidence in, our local workforce," said Barnwell County Council Chairman Travis Black.

"We welcome Doc Depot to our community and are excited about the new job opportunities they are creating," said Williston Mayor Tommy Rivers.

The Doc Depot Inc. is the nation's largest medical document retrieval service, specializing in increased efficiency and accuracy in the management of medical office documentation. The company uses proprietary software that allows it to better interface with doctors and their patients to provide uninterrupted access to affordable healthcare solutions. For more information about the company, please visit www.thedocdepot.com.

About S.C. Department of Commerce

As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing businesses grow. This year, Commerce won the Gold Shovel Award and the Deal of Year Award from Area Development magazine. Commerce has been part of recruiting world-class companies to South Carolina such as Boeing, Bridgestone, Continental, Monster.com, Heinz, ZF Group, BMW and Google Inc. Commerce also supports small and existing business, rural development initiatives and offers grants for community development. For more information, visit www.SCcommerce.com.

Masonite (continued from page 1)

jobs in Bamberg County. This announcement is another big win for one of our state's rural areas," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"Masonite is a world leader in the manufacture of interior doors and entry door systems. The company's decision to grow its facility in Bamberg County not only indicates Masonite's commitment to our state, but also indicates that South Carolina's business-friendly climate and skilled workforce are working to attract new investments and create jobs," said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

"The Masonite name is synonymous with quality and value," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "The company will be an asset to our industrial community, and we look forward to their continued success and growth in our region of South Carolina."

"We want to recognize the hard work on the part of the state and county representatives, and especially Danny Black, President and CEO of the Southern Carolina Alliance," said Mike Fout, Vice President of Operations for the Interior Door Division. "We also very much appreciate Governor Nikki Hailey's support of the incentive package, especially the education and training component."

Through the state's readySC™ workforce training program, a division of the SC Technical College System, Denmark Technical College is developing a curriculum to train current and future employees of the Denmark facility.

"South Carolina's Department of Commerce offered economic development solutions that were win-win," said Fred Lynch, Masonite's President and CEO. "We are committed to investing in innovative manufacturing and product technologies that will enhance our competitive edge, and we want to make those investments in communities where we have cooperative relationships with regional and local government."

Masonite acquired the plant in October, 2010 from Lifetime Doors Inc. The company expects to employ up to 200 within the next five years, when the new technology is fully installed.

The company is in the planning and engineering phase of the production line, and the new system is expected to be operational by early 2013.

"Bamberg County welcomes Masonite, and we are proud to have this internationally recognized company manufacturing in our county," said Bamberg County Council Chairman Clint Carter. "Every job created here affects a family, and that's why job creation is the key to improving the quality of life in Bamberg County."

The South Carolina Department of Commerce and Bamberg County partnered with Masonite to provide a grant from the state's Regional Infrastructure Fund, as well as other pro-business incentives to expand operations in the Denmark facility.

"We are pleased that Masonite chose Denmark as the location to grow their operations in the Southeast," said Mayor Gerald Wright of Denmark. "We believe that our workforce and our location played pivotal roles in their decision, and we will continue to work closely with the Masonite team to make them feel at home in Denmark."

"Bamberg County and Masonite will make an outstanding team," said SCA President Danny Black. "We are grateful to Masonite for their investment in our region, and we are grateful to our partners at the local, regional and state levels who made this project a reality, including Governor Haley and the team at the S.C. Department of Commerce, Bamberg County Council, the City of Denmark and the member counties of SCA who share the benefits of this success."

Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact Marc Alexander, Regional Human Resources Manager, at malexander@masonite.com.

Masonite International Corporation is a leading global manufacturer of residential and commercial doors, committed to providing the highest value building products to customers in approximately 70 countries around the world. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Masonite employs over 7,000 people worldwide. For more information about the company, please visit www.masonite.com.



Senator Brad Hutto addresses the crowd of more than 250 at the Masonite announcement ceremony in July.



S.C. Governor Nikki Haley returned to Denmark, SC, to announce the location of Masonite in the former GTI/Nibco Facility. The project will create up to 200 jobs.

Saluting the Industries of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton Counties

SCA Region Celebrates Industry Appreciation

“Our existing industries not only provide jobs, they fund county services and schools,” said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson, announcing that the regional economic development organization’s Annual Industry Appreciation Celebration will encompass a series of marketing activities to drive home this message over the next few months.

“Spreading the message that industries are the backbone of the local economy, creating business opportunities for service providers and retail operations, is our primary objective through the annual Industry Appreciation campaign,” said Williamson

Providing marketing and recruitment services for Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton Counties, SouthernCarolina Alliance launched this year’s regional program with a full day of networking events for industry leaders on October 13th. The campaign concludes with statewide recognition of industry and S.C.’s Economic Ambassadors at a ceremony with the Governor and the S.C. Legislature in the Spring of 2012.

SCA and the economic development commissions of the four counties sponsored several sporting events on October 13th, followed by a reception for more than 250 business and industry leaders.

“The events provided a great opportunity for the plant managers and local industry leaders to network beyond county lines,” said Williamson, “which is key to strengthening our ideals of regional cooperation and trust. During the annual sporting events, we do that through good-natured competition and camaraderie.”

A record number of participants turned out for the events, which included a captain’s choice golf tournament at Sweetwater Country Club in Barnwell and a marksmanship sporting event hosted by GTI.

“SouthernCarolina Alliance’s Industry Appreciation marketing campaign will be focused on the contributions by existing industry to the community. The message, ‘We Salute Our Industries For Providing Jobs Today, For Building Our Future Every Day,’ will be featured on billboards, radio and newspaper ads, and industrial park signs over the next few months,” said SCA Marketing and Special Projects Manager Kay Maxwell.

“While it’s been a tough economic year, with plant closings and consolidations throughout our nation, our region has been fortunate enough to gain some jobs as companies carve a successful path through lean economic times,” said SCA Vice Chairman Carl Gooding of Allendale. “We appreciate the commitment our local industries have made to not only create jobs, but invest in our communities by announcing expansions.”

In addition to the \$235.8 million in capital investment and 280 jobs announced in 2010, the region has already announced sev-

eral expansions and projects this year, including: Masonite’s announcement of 200 new manufacturing jobs in Denmark; LeCreuset’s expansion to triple its distribution facility and add e-commerce to their site in Yemassee, creating more than 25 new jobs; Elliott Brothers’ \$800,000 expansion, which brings 15 new jobs to Estill; the expansion of Doc Depot into Williston, promising 50 new jobs; the location of NK New Look in Blackville, which will bring 212 jobs and \$5 million in capital investment; and the location of SASCO Safety in the old Hanes Building, which will create 25 new jobs in Barnwell. Currently, there are several active projects considering locating in the region, which could result in more good news for the four counties in the coming months.

For more information on the region’s industries or the regional Industry Appreciation Celebration, visit the website: www.SouthernCarolina.org.



Pictured here is the first place team in the SCA Regional Industry Appreciation Invitational, l-r: Thomas Zeigler of Zeigler’s Chevrolet in Bamberg; Sam Plexico of J. Sam Plexico & Associates in Barnwell; Ronny Maxwell of SCB&T in Bamberg; and Buzz Pleming of M.B. Kahn Construction Company.



Dennis O’Connor (Left), Director of Training for the GTI, led the SCA Regional Industry Appreciation Marksmanship event. The crew participated in a thrilling close quarter battle simulation with hostage scenarios, among other drills, to better understand the type of intense training that GTI offers for first responders. A unique opportunity, the simulation experience was limited to 20 participants from around the region. For more information on Government Training Institute, visit their website: www.gtitraining.org.

New Industrial Building Under Construction Located at Exit 38 on I-95

Hampton County leaders and company executives met recently at the Southern Carolina Commerce Park on S.C. Highway 68, just off Exit 38 on I-95 in Early Branch, to celebrate the groundbreaking for the construction of a new 50,000 square foot industrial building at the site.

The construction of the industrial building is a project built through partnership at the local, regional and state levels. The project partners include Meadwestvaco, Hampton County government, Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, SCANA Corporation, Palmetto Electric Cooperatives, Sprint Nextel, Verizon, Embarq, the S.C. Department of Commerce, and USDA.

The promotional building is being constructed as a marketing tool to attract companies to the newly developed 1,380 acre park. Constructed on 14 acres owned by Southern Carolina Alliance, the 50,000 square foot building is expandable to 200,000 square feet. With dimensions of 200'X250', it is being constructed of pre-cast concrete with a ceiling height that varies from 32' on the low end to 42' on the high side. The building is being designed with 3 knock out panels in the pre-cast concrete to allow for 3 dock doors and 1 drive in door.

Located at 314 Commerce Parkway in Early Branch, the building was designed by Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung (HGBD) and is being constructed by Trident Construction. The building is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2012.



Hampton County celebrated the groundbreaking for the industrial building now under construction at the Southern Carolina Commerce Park. Pictured L-R are: Dr. Lamar Priester, Buddy Bullard, and Holbrook Platts of the Hampton County Economic Development Commission; Jim Hill, Vice President of Land Sales for Meadwestvaco; Hampton County Council Chairman Hugh Gray; Hampton County Economic Developer Sandy Fowler; Hampton County Councilman Chris Haulsee; Southern Carolina Alliance Vice Chairman DeThane Johnson; Hampton County Councilman Shedron Williams; Hampton County Administrator Sabrena Graham and Hampton County Councilman Virgin Johnson.

A snapshot of South Carolina's Forests

FOREST AREA

- South Carolina has 13.1 million acres of forestland -- 68% of the state's total land area.
- Hardwood timber types occupy over 54% of the state's forestland. Softwoods occupy 46%.
- South Carolina's forestland acreage has averaged 12.7 million acres since 1968.
- The 2009 forest inventory found there are 2.4 million more acres of forestland than there were in the first inventory in 1936.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Forestry is number one among manufacturing industries in jobs (90,624) and payroll (\$4.1 billion).
- Total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is more than \$17 billion annually.
- South Carolina exports \$1.3 billion in forest products each year.
- Timber is the state's number one cash crop at \$679 million annually.

FOREST OWNERSHIP

- 88% of South Carolina's forests are privately owned.
- 64% of private forests are family-owned.
- The average "family forest" is 66 acres. 74% of these owners live on the land.
- In 2009, forest industries owned 759,500 acres, down 62% since 2001 and continuing to decrease.
- Public agencies control 12% of SC forests.

FOREST INVENTORY

- South Carolina's forests now contain 23.3 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century.
- The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing significantly more wood than is being harvested.
- Net annual softwood growth is double pre-Hurricane Hugo growth rates. The present annual growth of 866 million cubic feet per year is the highest recorded.
- Net annual hardwood growth rates have steadily increased since Hurricane Hugo. The present annual growth of 412 million cubic feet per year is approaching the highest ever recorded.

Information provided by SC Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service 1/24/2011. For more about the state's forest resource, contact the SC Forestry Commission at 803/896-8800 or www.frees.sc.gov.

Elliott Sawmilling Company Inc. Announces Expansion in Hampton County

Investment expected to generate 15 new jobs

Gov. Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Hampton County and the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance announced on June 14th that Elliott Sawmilling Company Inc. will expand its current facility in Hampton County. The \$800,000 investment is expected to generate 15 new jobs.

“Elliott Sawmilling Company is proud to announce that we will be expanding our operation,” said Nash Elliott, products manager of Elliott Sawmilling Company. “As part of the expansion, we will add a rail siding to transport lumber, allowing us to reach markets that we would otherwise not be able to reach. The expansion will create 15 new jobs and position Elliott Sawmilling Co. as a strong business in the future. Thanks to the hard work of the Southern Carolina Alliance, Hampton County, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce, this expansion has become a reality.”

Work on the expansion is expected to be completed by July 2012.

“Our administration is focused on strengthening South Carolina’s business fundamentals so that more businesses will be encouraged to invest and create jobs, especially in our rural communities. We celebrate Elliott Sawmilling Company’s decision to expand in Hampton County and their decision to create more jobs in our state,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

“We appreciate Elliott Sawmilling Company’s decision to increase its presence in the Palmetto State and create more jobs. While we work to attract new investment to South Carolina, it is just as important to foster a business-friendly climate that helps our existing firms, like Elliott Sawmilling Company, meet with success. We look forward to company’s continued growth in our state,” said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

“We congratulate Elliott Sawmilling Company on their continued success and growth in Hampton County,” said Hampton County Council Chairman Hugh Gray. “We will continue to create the best environment to not only attract new companies, but to foster growth among our existing industries.”

“Elliott Sawmilling has played a pivotal role in our local economy for many years,” said Hampton County Economic Development Commission Chairman DeThane

Johnson. “Their expansion is not only indicative of their success, it breeds more success for our community because each job created affects a family in Hampton County. That’s why economic development is so critical to the quality of life our region has to offer.”

“We are grateful to Elliott Sawmilling for their investment in our people and in our county,” said Hampton County Administrator Sabrena Graham. “Our county’s leaders have worked hard to establish the best conditions for business, and we all celebrate Elliott Sawmilling Company’s success.”

“The expansion of our local industries, both those that are homegrown and those with an international reach, is a testament to Hampton County’s ability to offer a competitive advantage to prospective and existing companies,” said Sandy Fowler, Economic Development Director for Hampton County. “We would like to thank Elliott Bros. for the jobs they have provided in this community for decades, as well as the new jobs they are creating this year.”

“Elliott Sawmilling Company is an asset to our regional economy and a leader in our wood products industry cluster,” said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. “We appreciate the job creation and investment this expansion brings, and we appreciate the hard work and support from our local partners at the Hampton County Economic Development Commission and from our state partners at the S.C. Department of Commerce.”

About Elliott Sawmilling Company

Founded in 1958 by R.H. Elliott, Elliott Sawmilling is a manufacturer of southern yellow pine lumber. Brothers Dickie, Miles and Robert Elliott have assumed the leadership of the company from their father and currently employ 168 people. Nash and McCarten Elliott are also employed by the company, taking it into its third generation. The company is located in Estill.

NK Newlook Announces New Manufacturing Facility in Barnwell County

\$5 million investment expected to create 212 new jobs



NK Newlook, a manufacturer of store fixtures and retail interiors, announced on October 19th that it will locate a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Barnwell County. The \$5 million investment is expected to generate 212 new jobs.

“We are excited to locate our new facility in Barnwell County. South Carolina offered us an excellent business climate and a talented and available workforce. We look forward to establishing our new operations and appreciate all the support we’ve received from state and local officials,” said Bob Nottin, president of NK Newlook.

The company designs and produces product display cases and retail store fixtures for a wide range of clients.

“We welcome NK Newlook to our state’s business community and celebrate the 212 new jobs they will create in South Carolina. This announcement is another big win for one of our state’s rural areas,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The company will locate the facility in a building previously occupied by Allied Air in Blackville. One of the reasons NK Newlook chose South Carolina is because of the state’s workforce training programs.

“South Carolina’s training programs for workers have been recognized nationally, and this announcement shows they play an important role in recruiting companies here. Today’s

announcement also builds on our success in attracting manufacturing companies,” said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

This year, Commerce has been involved in the recruitment of more than \$2.9 billion in capital investment and more than 8,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

“NK Newlook’s move to South Carolina is tremendous news for Barnwell County and the Town of Blackville and is further evidence of the confidence companies have in our local workforce,” said Barnwell County Council Chairman Travis Black.

“The Town of Blackville welcomes NK Newlook to our community and we look forward to the renewed energy these 212 jobs will bring to Blackville,” said Blackville Mayor Mike Beasley.

“NK Newlook’s decision to move to Barnwell County from Miami is a clear indication of the importance of building relationships and continuing to work those relationships over months and sometimes years. Our sincere thanks to Larry Hunter, Bob Nottin and Jean Philippe Meunier for placing their confidence in Barnwell County to build the future of their company,” said Barnwell County Economic Development Commission Chairman Pete Grady.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce provided a Rural Infrastructure Fund grant worth \$200,000 to the company, and the company was approved for training funds.

The company began the hiring process in November. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact Barnwell SC Works Center located at 248 Wall St.

NK Newlook is headquartered in Miami, Fla., where the company was founded in 1999.

ISO9001 and AS9100 Quality Management Courses Offered

USC Salkehatchie is now offering ISO9001 and AS9100 Quality Management Certifications to industries in the Southern Carolina region. Many larger corporations, such as Boeing, require suppliers to have the ISO9001 and AS9100 Quality Management certifications.

As one of five colleges in the region taking part in the CSRA Regional Nuclear Workforce Initiative, USC Salkehatchie is able to offer the quality management training at a reduced rate as part of a grant the college received from Department of Energy. DOE set aside the funds to improve educational and job training opportunities for area residents, better preparing them for the nuclear workforce.

In the first year of what should be a multi-year grant spanning three to five years, USC Salkehatchie’s Leadership Institute received monies to build USC’s science and technology programs.

Additional funds will be provided on a year-to-year basis. While the grant funds allow for long-term development of the workforce through these types of programmatic enhancements, there is also an immediate workforce development component.

Clevetta Jackson, a former manager in the Radiological Protection Department at the Savannah River Site, was hired by the Leadership Institute in August to serve as the Nuclear Workforce Coordinator. In addition to working on the nuclear academic program development with campus academic officials, she is also working hard to assist local industries with their workforce needs not affiliated with the nuclear sector.

For more information on the ISO9001 and AS9100 certification courses, or to inquire about workforce development assistance, contact Clevetta Jackson at the Leadership Institute at (803)584-3446.

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Sasco Safety Announces New Facility in Barnwell County *Investment expected to create 25 new jobs*

On November 1, Sasco Safety, a maker of highway safety products, announced its new operations in Barnwell County. The \$1.9 million investment is expected to generate 25 new jobs.

“We are pleased to establish our new facility in Barnwell County. We received fantastic service from state and local officials in helping make our decision on where to locate, and SCE&G provided us with very competitive rates. South Carolina gives us an advantageous location for doing business and we are very confident we’ll find success here,” said Kevin Bradley, CEO of Sasco Safety.

Sasco Safety is establishing its new manufacturing facility in Barnwell in the former Hanesbrands building, relocating its operations from Alexandria, Egypt. The company makes a range of highway safety products, including traffic cones, drums and channelizers.

“Today’s announcement is another

important win for one of our rural areas. We celebrate Sasco Safety’s decision to establish its facility in Barnwell and create 25 new jobs. This announcement also shows that our state is attracting businesses from across the globe,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

“Sasco Safety is a leader in the production of highway safety products and we welcome them to our state’s business community. South Carolina has a strong reputation in the manufacturing sector and this announcement builds on that reputation,” said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

“This is more great news for Barnwell County and especially the City of Barnwell as new job opportunities continue to be created for our area,” said Barnwell County Council Chairman Travis Black.

“We appreciate the Barnwell County EDC’s efforts in bringing Sasco Safety to Barnwell. This breathes new life into the

former Hanesbrands facility and brings much needed jobs to our County,” said Barnwell Mayor Edward Lemon.

“As additional jobs continue to be announced for Barnwell County, it reinforces the confidence companies have in our local workforce. Manufacturing is alive and well in Barnwell County and this international company’s relocation to the United States is another example of the bright future Made in America products have in our global economy,” said Barnwell Economic Development Commission Chairman Pete Grady. The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a grant for the company for infrastructure improvements and the S.C. Technical College System will provide pre-employment training. The company will begin hiring for the new positions in the first quarter of 2012.