

Region News

Crescent Dairy & Beverages LLC Establishing New Facility in Colleton County

\$30 Million Investment Expected to Create 60 New Jobs

Crescent Dairy & Beverages LLC will be investing in a new ultra pasteurized beverage processing facility in Colleton County. The proposed investment is expected to exceed \$30 million and anticipates generating 60 new jobs within the next five years.

“We are excited about moving forward with our plans of establishing operations in the eastern U.S. After close to one year of extensive research and exploration of the

region, we are convinced that South Carolina and Colleton County will offer us a secure business environment that will guarantee solid progress which will contribute to our regional expansion,” said company representative Gabriel Pascual.

“The new location is ideal for serving not only eastern U.S. markets, but export markets as well, as the Port of Charleston provides

continued on page 2



Crescent Dairy & Beverages LLC will locate in the spec. building at Colleton County Commerce Center.

In This Issue

- Crescent Dairy's Investment.....1
- Biomass Groundbreaking.....1
- LowCountry Biomass Expands..2
- amFOG Farms' Investment.....3
- Tobul Accumulator Expands....4
- eCycling Announcement.....5
- Sarla Performance Fibers.....5
- Le Creuset Expands.....6
- SCA Named Grant Winner.....7
- Richardson Joins SCA.....8
- Revis Joins SCA.....8
- DOE and SMRs.....9
- 2012 Economic Ambassadors...10
- Chairman's Message.....12

Biomass Producer Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony at Estill Industrial Park

Company to Invest \$10.4 Million and Create 30 Jobs

Company officials representing biomass producer LDH/ECI, LLC, gathered with Hampton County economic development leaders at the Estill Industrial Park on Monday, November 19th, for a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the company's \$10.4 million direct investment in a new manufacturing facility, which will create 25-30 new jobs in the Hampton County area.

Located on 27 acres in the Estill Industrial Park, LDH/ECI Energy LLC., formerly identified by developers as “Project E,” will produce green, renewable energy alternatives to traditional fuels such as oil or coal by converting fresh cut pine wood into a biomass energy product. The product can then be burned by industries in boilers to produce electricity.



L-R: Dr. Lamar Priester, Hampton County Economic Development Commission; Sabrena Graham, SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors and Hampton County Administrator; Hugh Gray, Hampton County Council Chairman; Ernie Fletcher, Director of LDH-ECI, LLC; Cliff Hooper, LDH-ECI Chairman of the Board; Steve Hooper, CEO and President of LDH-ECI; Todd Stewart, Chief Operating Officer of Envircarbon, Inc.; Danny Lucas, Administrator of the Town of Estill; Buddy Bullard, Hampton County Economic Development Commission and SCA Board of Advisors; and Greg Brunson, Hampton County Economic Development Commission.

“We are very excited about the project and the prosperity it will bring,” said Sandy Fowler, executive director of the H.C. Economic Development Commission (EDC), who worked closely with company officials,

continued on page 3



Crescent Dairy & Beverages LLC *(continued from page 1)*

ideal conditions to allow fast and constant flow of cargo to the region," Pascual added. "We are also very appreciative of the professionalism and support received from all South Carolina and Colleton County state officials and representatives involved in the negotiating process; such was unparalleled when compared to other participating states and certainly made a difference for us to establish operations here."

The new facilities will include state of the art processing equipment which will implement "ultra-high-temperature" (UHT) beverage processing. This type of processing allows beverages to have an extended shelf life without refrigeration until opened, and in many cases such a shelf life can exceed 12 months. The initial production output of the company is anticipated to be mainly for export markets expecting to make a cross-over move to U.S. markets gradually in the near future, company officials confirmed.

"Today's announcement is another win for one of our state's rural counties. We celebrate Crescent Dairy & Beverages' decision to locate in Colleton County, invest \$30 million and create 60 new jobs. By continuing to provide a business-friendly climate, we can help bring more job-creating investments like this one to all regions of South Carolina," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has recruited more than \$292 million in capital investment and more than 1,400 jobs in the agribusiness sector.

"The agribusiness sector has long been an important part of South Carolina's economy and announcements like Crescent Dairy & Beverages' today show it continues to create new jobs. Every one of these jobs will create impact in Colleton County and this investment will help sustain agribusiness in the area," said Secretary of Commerce

Bobby Hitt.

"This is another great example that agribusiness development is bringing new companies and more jobs to South Carolina. The industry continues to have a vital impact across the state, and Colleton County will benefit greatly from Crescent Dairy & Beverages' new processing facility," said South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers.

"We are very pleased to see Crescent Dairy & Beverages locate their facility here in Colleton County," said Colleton County Council Chairman Evon Robinson. "It is good to see hard work and the investments made in education and infrastructure pay off for our community. This will certainly put a twinkle in the eye of Colleton County."

"Crescent Dairy & Beverages' investment in our region is an indication of the great location that Colleton County provides to industries looking for access to I-95 and proximity to the Port of Charleston. The people of Colleton County and their economic development team have fostered an environment to attract and grow manufacturing and distribution operations, and Crescent Dairy & Beverages will reap these benefits. We welcome the Crescent team, and we appreciate their investment in the community," said Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black.

SelectUSA, the U.S. government-wide initiative to promote and facilitate business investment in the United States, housed at the U.S. Department of Commerce, partnered with the State of South Carolina in order to help facilitate the firm's decision to locate in the United States.

Hiring information will be available by the beginning of 2013.

LowCountry Biomass LLC Expands Jasper County Facility

\$16 Million Investment Expected to Create 26 New Jobs

LowCountry Biomass, a recycler of wood residues, has announced plans to expand its existing wood pellet manufacturing operations in Jasper County. The \$16 million investment is expected to generate 26 new jobs.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to grow our company in Jasper County. South Carolina offers us an excellent business environment and a skilled workforce. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials," said Rhett Harwell, vice president of LowCountry Biomass.

LowCountry Biomass recently took over the operations of Champion Wood Pellets, a manufacturer of wood pellets used in home heating fuel, alternative industrial energy and equine bedding, located at 523 Nimmer Turf Road in Ridgeland. The company is currently operating the pellet manufacturing facility and is in the process of increasing the production capacity at the plant to 200,000 metric tons per year.

"It's always exciting to see one of our existing businesses grow and create new jobs, and that's especially true when

it's in one of our rural areas. We celebrate LowCountry Biomass' decision to expand and create 26 new jobs in Ridgeland," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"The announcement by LowCountry Biomass certainly helps boost our state's manufacturing sector and brings new jobs to one of South Carolina's rural areas. This announcement also adds to the investments made in the state's agribusiness sector," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"We are very pleased to welcome LowCountry Biomass to Jasper County. New jobs mean more opportunities for our community and our young people," said Jasper County Council Chairman Samuel Gregory.

"It is great to see industry investment again and especially in our community. The natural landscape and workforce of this county and region are well suited for green industry like LowCountry Biomass," said Ridgeland Mayor Joey Malphrus.

Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact Beau Harwell at 843-726-6400.

Gourmet Mushroom Producer amFOG Farms LLC Locating Operations in Jasper County

\$1 Million Investment and New Jobs in Hardeeville

amFOG Farms LLC, a gourmet mushroom producer, announced on December 11 their plans to relocate their headquarters and construct a state-of-the-art production facility near Hardeeville.



The new facility is expected to generate seven new jobs.

"Jasper County provides an excellent location for our operation because of the easy access to I-95, I-16, and I-26 and proximity to our growing markets," said amFOG General Manager Chris Sywassink. "The company chose the location because of the business climate here in South Carolina. The local, regional and state leaders value the jobs created by small companies like ours, and they are focused on the innovation and application of technology in today's agribusiness. amFOG is poised for growth, and Jasper County will be a great partner for our company."

The company will produce gourmet mushrooms, including Oyster, Shiitake and Miatake, in a controlled indoor growing environment utilizing amFOG's patent and trademark-pending process, which is expected to produce 1,500 pounds of mushrooms per week or 78,000 pounds during the first year of operation in 2013.

"We work hard every day to show businesses that South Carolina is the right place for them to do business. It's always exciting when a firm chooses to put down roots in one of our state's rural areas. We greatly appreciate amFOG Farms' decision to invest \$1 million and create new jobs in Hardeeville," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The company plans to begin construction in the first quarter of 2013 on the new facility on U.S. Highway 17, south of Hardeeville.

"Agribusiness continues to be a wealth creator in South Carolina. At Commerce, we've worked for the past year to bring in more agriculture-related projects, and

announcements from companies like amFOG Farms show we are helping that sector grow. Every one of these jobs will have an impact in Jasper County," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has recruited more than \$439 million in capital investment and more than 2,200 jobs in the agribusiness sector.

"This announcement certainly highlights the continuing diversity of the South Carolina agribusiness community. The state's agriculture industry is made up of many kinds of growers and producers, and amFOG is another example of the industry's many facets of potential. I believe we'll see more ag-related companies like amFOG Farms make South Carolina home," said South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers.

"We are impressed by amFOG's innovative process and strategy, and we appreciate the jobs they are bringing to our community," said Marty Sauls, vice chairman of Jasper County Council and a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors. "Small companies like amFOG Farms are the backbone of this country, and we want to provide the most pro-business home in the Southeast for operations like this."

According to Southern Carolina Alliance Project Manager Phil Richardson, "The leaders in Jasper County worked with the company and the S.C. Department of Commerce to create the best possible conditions for this project, and we are proud to be a part of this team. It's a great example of the diverse and profitable agribusiness growing in South Carolina."

For employment inquiries or more information on amFOG Farms LLC, please contact Chris Sywassink at chris.sywassink@amfogfarms.com.

Biomass Producer Groundbreaking *(continued from page 1)*

Hampton County Council, the regional economic development organization Southern Carolina Alliance, and the S.C. Department of Commerce to bring the project to fruition.

"We welcome the LDH/ECI team to the Southern Carolina region of South Carolina, and we look forward to working with them in the years to come," said Danny Black, President and CEO of Southern Carolina Alliance. "This company will be an asset in our regional industrial community, and we are appreciative of their investment in

our community."

According to LDH/ECI's CFO Todd Stewart, the company's operations are expected to bring in \$1.6 million in property tax revenue over the next 20 years from a direct \$10.4 million capital investment in Hampton County, as well as an indirect impact of \$18.7 million to the local trucking and logging industry.

The company, which has already begun construction at the industrial park and has cleared the 27-acre site, hopes to have the Estill plant in operation in three to four months.

Tobul Accumulator Expanding Operations in Bamberg County

\$5 Million Investment Expected to Create 50 New Jobs



Tobul Accumulator announced that it will expand its existing operations in Bamberg County. The \$5 million

investment is expected to generate 50 new jobs.

“Our expansion in Bamberg is due to the growth of our company in the oil and gas and off-road sectors of our business,” said Tobul Accumulator President and CEO Jim Tobul. “This is a family business that has invested in the families of Bamberg for more than 25 years, and we are proud that we are able to create more good jobs here at home. Our team at Tobul is a workforce second to none, and their commitment to excellence played a large role in our decision to grow the business here. Being that Tobul has operations in Racine, Wis., Shanghai, China and manufacturing in Houston, we chose Bamberg to expand our company.”

Tobul Accumulator will expand into a newly constructed industrial building, located at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park, which is on U.S. Hwy 301 and is a multi-county industrial park owned by SouthernCarolina Alliance. The company is a maker of hydraulic accumulators, and Tobul’s products are sold in more than 50 countries.

The company plans to expand and upfit the building to accommodate their growing sales and manufacturing operations.

“We celebrate Tobul Accumulator’s decision to expand its footprint in Bamberg with an investment of \$5 million and the creation of 50 new jobs. We are working hard every day to bring investments and new jobs to all areas of South Carolina,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

“In South Carolina, we know how to make things, and that’s something Tobul Accumulator has known for many years. Our state’s manufacturing sector continues to show its strength with announcements like this. Every one of these jobs will have impact in Bamberg,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

“The expansion of Tobul Accumulators is indicative of the company’s global success and commitment to quality, as well as their commitment to the local workforce,” said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. “We are fortunate to have Tobul as a leader in our regional industrial community, and we look forward to working with Jim Tobul and his team for years to come.”

Bamberg County Council Chairman Chris Wilson said, “Bamberg County has a long and successful history with Tobul, and we have a promising future with this company

as it continues to grow. The people of Bamberg County appreciate Jim Tobul’s investment in our community, and our county council will continue to work with the Tobul team and our other existing industries to create the best possible conditions for the growth of business.”

Kell Anderson, Southern Carolina Alliance’s Director of Economic Development for Bamberg County, added, “Tobul has worked for months to make this expansion a reality, and we are proud to have this company flourishing in our region. It’s a great success story to share with prospective industries, and it’s good news for the people of our region.”

Tobul Accumulator’s products are utilized in a diverse array of industry sectors for many applications, including power generation, industrial automation, steel, military, oil and gas, amusement, construction, forestry, transportation and mining.

For more information about the company, please visit www.tobul.com.



Tobul Accumulator in Bamberg, SC



Tobul Accumulator will add 50 new jobs and expand into the industrial building at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park on Hwy 301.

eCycling International SC Establishing New Facility in Allendale County

More than \$23 Million Investment Expected to Create 18 New Jobs



eCycling International SC has announced that the company is locating its new facility in Allendale County. The more than \$23 million investment is expected to generate 18 new jobs.

"We are excited to open our new operations in Allendale County. South Carolina offers us an exceptional business environment and a talented workforce. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials as we've helped to make this project a reality," said Kevin Fail, facility manager for eCycling International SC.

eCycling International SC is establishing its recycling and processing service facility in the former Mohawk building in Ulmer. The company offers commercial recycling and performs zero-waste landfill services. The facility is expected to be up and running in five months.

"The recycling sector continues to be an important part

of our state's economy and the announcement by eCycling International SC builds on that," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Allendale County welcomes eCycling International to our diverse industrial community," said Allendale County Council Chairman Carl Gooding. "We appreciate the job creation and investment in our workforce that eCycling will bring through this project, and we look forward to working with the company for many years to come."

"Every job created in a rural community affects a family and improves their quality of life," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "eCycling's investment in our region is celebrated because these new jobs will make a big difference to our families. We are delighted that eCycling International has chosen our region for their operation."

The company began hiring in late December for the new positions. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact Kevin Fail at the new facility.

Sarla Performance Fibers Establishing Operations in Colleton County

\$13.8 Million Investment Expected to Create 100 New Jobs

On December 7, Sarla Performance Fibers, a producer of yarn and threads, announced that it will locate its new operations in Colleton County. The \$13.8 million investment is expected to generate 100 new jobs.

"We are pleased to establish our U.S. presence here in South Carolina. Colleton County offers us an excellent business environment, skilled workforce talent, exceptional market access and close proximity to the Port of Charleston. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials in bringing this project to fruition," said Bobby Downs, executive vice president of Sarla Performance Fibers.

Sarla Performance Fibers, which is based in Mumbai, India, will establish a new yarn and thread manufacturing facility in Colleton County under the name Sarlaflex, located at the former NY Wire manufacturing facility in Walterboro. The facility will serve customers in the apparel and upholstery markets. The new plant is expected to begin operations by May 2013.

"We are thrilled that Sarla Performance Fibers has chosen South Carolina for its new manufacturing facility. The announcement is another indication that companies from across the globe are seeing the benefits of doing business in our state. It's also exciting to see Sarla Performance Fibers invest \$13.8 million and create 100 new jobs in one of our state's rural areas," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

"South Carolina has a long tradition as a maker of textiles, and announcements like this one from Sarla Performance Fibers build on that history. The company's decision also gives South Carolina's manufacturing renaissance a boost. More and more manufacturers are discovering that the Palmetto State is just right for their companies," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"We are very pleased that Sarla Performance Fibers

has chosen Colleton County in which to establish their presence in the U.S. This repatriation of jobs into the U.S. is a strong indicator that our workforce is globally competitive. Welcoming this industry here is an important touchstone not only for Colleton County but for the state of South Carolina as well," said Colleton County Council Chairman Rev. Evon Robinson.

"Colleton County provides a strategic location and an excellent workforce for manufacturing. Good jobs created through economic development are the key to improving the quality of life for our communities, and we welcome Sarla Performance Fibers to the Southern Carolina region of South Carolina," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson.

"The South Carolina Department of Commerce has done an excellent job in matching the assets in Colleton County with the requirements of Sarla Performance Fibers. We anticipate the result being long term benefits for South Carolina, Sarla Performance Fibers and Colleton County. Heyward Horton and our local economic development team have shown outstanding commitment to see this project come to fruition. We are proud of what is being accomplished here and are confident that this positive trend will continue," Bill Workman, chairman of the Colleton County Resource and Development Board.

The company will begin hiring for the new positions in January 2013. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact the human resources department at the facility at 1497 Industrial Road.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a rural infrastructure grant of \$500,000 and approved job development credits, which will be available when hiring targets are met.

For more information about the company, please visit www.Sarlafibers.com.

Le Creuset Expanding Facility in Hampton County

\$2 million Investment is Second Expansion in the Past Year



French cookware manufacturer Le Creuset announced in May that the company will invest \$2 million in a 93,000-square-foot expansion at their North American distribution site, located just off I-95 in Early Branch, S.C.

"This investment represents our continued commitment to the Lowcountry and South Carolina. Le Creuset is a beloved and dynamic consumer brand with a truly global footprint, and this expansion in Hampton County will directly fuel and support our aggressive growth plan over the coming years," said Faye Gooding, CEO of Le Creuset Americas.

The announcement comes on the heels of the 116,000-square-foot expansion and \$3.5 million investment at the Hampton County site in June 2011, which created 25 new jobs.

"It's a great day in South Carolina when one of our existing businesses decides to increase its footprint here. Le Creuset's decision to invest another \$2 million in expanding its Hampton County facility, just 11 months after announcing a previous expansion, demonstrates that South Carolina provides a business-friendly climate where companies can grow," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The 93,000-square-foot expansion will increase the size of the distribution facility on Bob Gifford Boulevard in Early Branch to 300,000 square feet. This is the fourth time that Le Creuset has announced investment or growth in its current location. The expansion will allow the company to service growing distribution in North and South America, as well as its expanding e-commerce business.

"Le Creuset is a world-class company that has had a presence in South Carolina for more than three decades. This investment not only shows the company's commitment to our state, but that South Carolina's skilled workforce and exceptional access to markets continue to help our existing firms expand and create new jobs," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"The success of the operation in Hampton County is indicative of the company's global success and

commitment to quality, as well as their commitment to the local workforce, who help to make this success possible," said Hampton County Council Chairman Hugh Gray.

"We appreciate the direct job creation and investment that Le Creuset brings to the area, as well as the indirect benefits of having this internationally recognized company growing here," said Hampton County EDC Chairman Bill Hager.

According to Sandy Fowler, director of Economic Development for Hampton County, Le Creuset's distribution center not only provides 123 jobs at the distribution facility, its presence will seed investment by other companies.

"We are proud that Le Creuset Americas chose Hampton County, and we share their success story with all of our industrial prospects," said Fowler. "Our proximity to the ports of Charleston and Savannah, as well as the access to I-95, are great selling points. Le Creuset's strong international brand recognition lends credibility in demonstrating Hampton County's viability as a great location for distribution."

"Faye Gooding and the Le Creuset team have created another success story for our region, and we are appreciative of their growing investment in

Hampton County," said Southern Carolina Alliance CEO Danny Black. "We stand ready to assist them in any way that we can, and we congratulate the entire corporate team that made this growth possible."

The company first established its current distribution center near Yemassee in 1997 and has had a presence in South Carolina since 1974.

Founded in northern France in 1925, Le Creuset now markets its high-end enamel cookware globally. Le Creuset sells its products through more than 1,000 stores in such national upscale shops as Williams-Sonoma, Bloomingdales and Sur La Table.

For more information about the company, please visit www.lecreuset.com.

"It's a great day in South Carolina when one of our existing businesses decides to increase its footprint here."

Gov. Nikki Haley

SCA Named Challenge Winner

Project to Benefit Industry and Workforce in 6-County Region

SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance has been named as a Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winner as part of an announcement made August 1st by the Obama Administration. The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge was created to spur job creation and economic growth in rural regions across the country. SCA is one of thirteen regional groups across the nation to be named challenge winners.

Economic development partnerships and initiatives in Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia will receive awards ranging from nearly \$200,000 to over \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The winning projects will promote job creation, accelerate innovation and provide assistance to entrepreneurs and businesses in a wide range of industrial sectors, including advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, energy and natural resources, technology and tourism.

The Rural Jobs Accelerator Challenge is a national initiative to support rural partnerships that are critical components to support small businesses. By leveraging local assets, the selected industry clusters and partnerships can do even more to help entrepreneurs and small businesses foster innovation, increase competitiveness and employ highly skilled workers, all of which are critical to long-term economic growth in their regions.

Last year's 20 challenge winners generated millions in matching funds and their projects are expected to help create hundreds of new businesses and thousands of new jobs.

SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance was selected this year for their workforce development project, which centers on a proposed Advanced Nuclear and Manufacturing Skills Training Center, to be operated in partnership with the S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The goal of the program is to offer advanced manufacturing skills training beyond the programs currently offered in the area to connect the unemployed and underemployed with current and future jobs in the manufacturing arena.

The project was developed by SCA and SCMEP in response to identified needs in the region. Several recent professional studies have indicated the need for thousands of welders and pipe fitters in the Carolinas and Georgia over

the next 5-10 years. In addition, findings among existing industries in the six-county region of SouthernCarolina Alliance and among prospective automotive and aeronautic industries have cited highly qualified welders as the most pressing need in the workforce.

Four types of training have been identified to meet those needs: advanced structural welding, nuclear welding, pipe fitting, and NQA welding inspection. These tracks address the needs of the existing nuclear and metal fabrication clusters, as well as the requirements of the growing aerospace and automotive clusters surrounding the SouthernCarolina Alliance region.

SCA will contract with SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership and a private vendor to provide training and recruitment for the program, as well as placement for those completing the program.

According to SCA President Danny Black, the basic welding course offered by the Advanced Nuclear and Manufacturing Skills Training Center and

provided by SCMEP will be 400 hours in a 10-week course with professional, certified instructors. The advanced welding course, which will provide training to satisfy NQA standards, entails 900 hours of instruction in a 23-week course. Candidates for the school will include those who have completed technical college level welding courses and those with basic welding skills who need more hands on instruction and experience in order to qualify for local jobs.

"This award will allow us to design and offer training tailored to our industries' needs," said SCA Chairman Johnny Williamson. "The courses will be designed by our local industries so that graduates will not only be able to pass their employer's qualifying tests, they will be prepared and skilled enough to excel on the job from day one."

Melissa Steinkuhl, Regional Vice President of SCMEP, said, "The rural counties of the SouthernCarolina Alliance will be profoundly changed as a result of this grant. The assistance in funding an Advanced Nuclear and Manufacturing Skills Center will provide training and opportunity for quality nuclear welding jobs. These jobs, in many ways, provide the foundation for strengthening our communities and our way of life."

For more information on the program, contact SCA President Danny Black at 803.541.0023. For more information on SouthernCarolina Alliance, please visit: www.SouthernCarolina.org. To learn more about the services provided by SCMEP, please visit the website: www.scmeop.org.





Richardson Joins Alliance as Project Manager

Phillip E. Richardson, Jr., joined the regional economic development team as Project Manager in August for a newly created position to work on economic development projects throughout SCA's six-county region, with an emphasis on Jasper County.

The Alliance, comprised of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties, is one of six regional economic development alliances in the State of South Carolina.

As Project Manager, Richardson works directly with industrial prospects and existing industries in the region to bring economic development projects at all stages to fruition, with a focus on product development and project management in Jasper County. In addition, Richardson is involved in site location evaluation, marketing and recruitment efforts. He works directly with local industry and community leaders, economic development commissions, county councils, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the regional alliance board.

"Phil Richardson brings a wealth of experience in commercial real estate, as well as small business and financial services in both the private and public sectors," said SouthernCarolina Alliance President Danny Black. "His leadership abilities and professional training are assets to our organization."

Richardson is a licensed commercial real estate broker and worked with Grubb & Ellis/ Wilson Kibler in Columbia, SC, prior to accepting the position with SCA. He is a former Small Business Specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and with the SBA and worked in the private sector in financial services and banking.

"Phil's knowledge of the technical aspects of economic development, such as property evaluation, marketing and finance will be a boon to our efforts," said Marty Sauls, a member of the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors and Jasper County Council, "but we are equally impressed with his skill and expertise in collaboration with corporate executives, business owners, and individuals at all levels of a project. We look forward to working with him

to attract industry and create jobs in our region."

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Richardson earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and he is a graduate of the S.C. Economic Developers School at the Tate Center for Graduate and Professional Programs at the College of Charleston.

For more information on SouthernCarolina Alliance and Jasper County, please visit the website at www.SouthernCarolina.org.



Reuis Joins Alliance Marketing Team

Morgan Kizer Reuis joined the Alliance team as Marketing Associate in August. Reuis was hired for the newly created position to assist the marketing team in promoting economic development in SCA's six county region.

As SCA's Marketing Associate, Reuis participates in industrial prospect recruitment activities and communications; production of marketing materials and special events; implementation of lead generation programs; and public relations and advertising for the SCA region. In her role with the Alliance, Reuis works directly with the county economic development commissions, county councils, industry and community leaders, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the regional alliance board.

"Morgan's marketing experience and organizational skills have been invaluable," said SouthernCarolina Alliance President Danny Black. "She has hit the ground running to work with us in implementing our aggressive marketing campaign, and we are pleased to have her on board."

A graduate of Winthrop University, Reuis' professional experience includes marketing, sales, production and graphic design with several publishing companies, including The People Sentinel. She and her husband, David, reside in Barnwell.

DOE and SMRs: Critical Time at SRS

By Danny Black, President and CEO



Mr. Danny Black

The Department of Energy's recent decision to pour millions into a new Small Modular Reactor (SMR) project in Tennessee is yet another blow to local efforts to save the Savannah River Site from what many fear may ultimately be permanent closure.

Encouraged by DOE and working with the private sector, the Southern Carolina Alliance and other economic development groups mounted an aggressive campaign to locate SMR research and demonstration projects at SRS. However, DOE's most recent decision to fund the SMR project in Tennessee instead indicates that this common sense approach to deploy this new technology and create jobs here in our region is not to be.

Instead, DOE has announced it will make a "significant investment" – estimated to be hundreds of millions -- in Tennessee in first-of-a-kind engineering, design certification and licensing for SMRs. The funding is part of a five-year cost share agreement with Babcock & Wilcox in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Bechtel. The investment is geared toward helping B&W obtain Nuclear Regulatory Commission

licensing and achieve commercial operation by 2022.

Small Modular Reactors hold great promise for the nation's energy future. They are about one-third the size of current nuclear power plants, have compact, scalable designs and offer safety, construction and economic benefits. They can also be made in factories and transported to sites where they would be ready to "plug and play" upon arrival, reducing both capital costs and construction times.

SMRs can also be a major economic boon to communities where they are built and operate, creating jobs, tax revenues and a heightened reputation for technological leadership.

Regrettably, the government's decision to support SMR work in Tennessee brings into question DOE's long-term plans for the Savannah River Site. New missions are critical to the future viability of SRS as the cleanup of the Site's Cold War legacy winds down.

The announcement came days after the local DOE management was chastised by senior officials in the Department's Environmental Management (EM) division -- the current SRS "landlord" -- for their ambitious plan, which called for devoting cleanup funds to grow Site missions, including SMRs. The plans were outlined in a comprehensive vision document called "Enterprise SRS" prepared by DOE and its primary operating contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

While we applaud the recent Memorandums of Agreement SRS signed with three SMR manufacturers, these agreements do not include a federal funding commitment. Rather, unlike its Tennessee investment, DOE says it envisions private sector funding will be used to support the SRS partnerships and any resulting deployment plans.

Based on these events, our region has every reason to be concerned about the future of the Savannah River Site. With its significant employment and sizeable Federal investment, SRS has been the chief driver of our regional economy for more than 60 years.

We know of no one who would not like to see the SRS record of achievement and economic benefits continue for decades into the future, taking the Site to the century mark and beyond. Just as it would be difficult to assemble the SRS 310-square-mile land mass again, it will be just as challenging to recreate its unparalleled pool of human talent which has addressed some of the most complex and challenging technological issues of our time.

But without the Federal Government's continued commitment and support for something besides "cleanup and close down", many see the handwriting on the wall. Simply put, unless something changes soon, the future of SRS and the communities surrounding the site is not bright.

Twenty years ago, renowned physicist Dr. Edward Teller, the acknowledged Father of the H-Bomb, told a local audience "it would be a shame if thousands of talented SRS workers lost their jobs because the Government failed to harness their unique capabilities for important new national missions."

His comments were alarming then. Let's hope they weren't also prophetic. Whether it's Small Modular Reactors or some other technology, the Department of Energy needs to take a fresh, hard look at the impressive capabilities at SRS before it's too late.

As stakeholders in the regional economies surrounding DOE's Savannah River Site, we need to take action as well, bringing all of our political, business, financial and community assets together to petition for new missions at SRS. Once the brick and mortar assets are dismantled and the collective, uniquely qualified workforce is dispersed, we will never again have the opportunity to produce the prosperity our region so desperately needs and deserves.

The loss of the SMR project to Tennessee should be a wake-up call to all of us. We must take steps now to transform our regional economy by fighting for these new missions, and our communities' business leaders and elected officials should lead this charge.

2012 Economic Ambassadors Honored by S.C.

Six business leaders from the SouthernCarolina Alliance region were named 2012 S.C. Ambassadors for Economic Development and were honored by Gov. Nikki Haley and the South Carolina Department of Commerce as part of the annual Industry Appreciation Celebration. The awards ceremony recognized 51 individuals from all 46 counties who contributed to economic development in their local communities.

"We are bringing investments and new jobs every day. In South Carolina, we build things. We're building planes. We're building automobiles. We're building tires. We're bringing in companies we never imagined we'd bring. Recruiting companies is a team effort and our team efforts are only going to continue to get stronger," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

SouthernCarolina Alliance joins Governor Haley and the South Carolina Department of Commerce in honoring these business leaders.



Gov. Haley, Mr. Ward & Sec. Hitt

Dave Ward, Four Star Industries 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Allendale County

Dave Ward and a team of partners founded Four Star Industries and announced Allendale County as their location of choice in 2009. Within 12 months, the operation was up and running under Ward's leadership with 15 employees and 2 production lines, with a third production line added in 2012 and the addition of another 6-8 employees expected.

According to Allendale County Council Chairman Carl Gooding, "Dave Ward is not new to the area, having held the position of plant manager of the Nevamar Corporation facility in Hampton for several years. The relationships he developed and his knowledge of our workforce in the region led to Dave's return to the Southern Carolina region. He has invested in our community and in our future, and we look forward to working with the Four Star team for years to come."

"Allendale County is extremely proud to have Four Star Industries as part of our manufacturing community," said Allendale County Economic Development Director Bill Robinson. "We are excited about the leadership and experience that Dave brings to the region."

"Four Star has been good for Allendale County and for the region," said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "Dave Ward believed in our region, believed in Allendale County, and believed in our ability to breed success. He's demonstrated his commitment to our people, and we appreciate his investment."



Gov. Haley, Mr. Stoddard & Sec. Hitt

Mike Stoddard, Masonite 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Bamberg County

Mike Stoddard, Senior Director of Operations for Masonite's Eastern Region in the Residential Door Division, was chosen as Bamberg County's SC Economic Ambassador for his role in growing the Masonite facility in Denmark, South Carolina. In 2010 Masonite purchased the assets of Lifetime Doors, Inc., including a plant located south of the City of Denmark. Recognizing value in the Bamberg County operation, Mr. Stoddard became a pivotal part of the team that recommended to decision makers within Masonite to preserve and potentially expand the Bamberg County facility. Working with both local and state leaders, this decision led to the immediate expansion of the current facility. It also served as a catalyst that led to the occupancy of an additional vacant manufacturing facility and the announcement of 159 jobs and an investment in excess of 14 million dollars.

an investment in excess of 14 million dollars.

According to Bamberg County Council Chairman Chris Wilson, "Mike Stoddard was instrumental in encouraging decision makers within his company to expand in Denmark. We appreciate his commitment to the people of our region and his company's investment in our community."

"Mike Stoddard worked with us at the local, regional and state levels every step of the way to make this project a success," said Bamberg County Economic Development Director Kell Anderson.

"Masonite has been good for Bamberg County and for the region," said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "Mike knew the area, understood what our workforce had to offer, and urged the company to grow here in Denmark. He's a great partner for us in economic development."



Gov. Haley, Mr. Terrapin & Sec. Hitt

Jess Terrapin, UniTech Services Group 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Barnwell County

Jess Terrapin, the plant manager for UniTech Services Group, is a Barnwell native and involved in many community activities including volunteering as a coach for the City of Barnwell Recreation Department, as well being involved in the local schools.

According to Barnwell County Economic Development Director Marty Martin, "Jess Terrapin was instrumental in transitioning a Georgia operation into their Barnwell County operation, creating in excess of 50 new jobs. He is always willing to discuss workforce and quality of life issues in Barnwell County with potential prospects. His familiarity with Barnwell and the surrounding area, and the professionalism he exhibits with other business and industry representatives and prospects make him a real asset in county efforts to attract new business and to grow existing industries."

Department of Commerce and Governor Haley



Gov. Haley, Mr. Mongell & Sec. Hitt

Mitch Mongell, Colleton Medical Center 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Colleton County

As the CEO, Mitch Mongell's vast experience in expanding services and improving access to high quality care has been a key factor in Colleton Medical Center's growth, according to Colleton County Economic Development Director Heyward Horton. In 2011, under Mongell's leadership the Colleton Medical Center was designated as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission, a national hospital accreditation organization. Mongell was also instrumental in establishing Colleton Medical Center as a base for LifeNet 4, a medical emergency helicopter service and a vital element of quality healthcare in a rural county. Mongell serves as the chairman of the South Carolina Hospital Association's Small and Rural Hospital Council and Vice Chairman of the Colleton County Economic Alliance.

"Every time we call on him to meet with prospects, he hits a home run," said Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin.



Gov. Haley, Ms. Flowers & Sec. Hitt

Paula Flowers, Fletcher's Finds, Sloman House 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Hampton County

As the owner of Fletcher's Finds, Paula Flowers has played a pivotal role in the Yemassee business community, bringing in customers from all of the country who exit Interstate 95 to shop at her charming home décor and gift shop, which features antiques, hand crafted gifts and vintage items. Fletcher's Finds also houses a deli and catering business serving the locals of the Southern Carolina region of South Carolina, as well as the tourists stopping by. Flowers also owns and operates the Sloman House, a bed and breakfast located in Yemassee and is the Chairperson of the Yemassee Revitalization Committee.

In addition to being recognized by the Governor, Ms. Flowers was chosen by the Hampton County Economic Development Commission and is being recognized by Hampton County Council for her many contributions to the local and regional economy.

According to Hampton County Council Chairman Hugh Gray, "As the leader of the Yemassee Revitalization Committee, Paula Flowers has served as an official hostess, spokesperson, and cheerleader for Hampton County."

Sandy Fowler, Hampton County's Economic Development Director, added, "Paula has assisted Hampton County and Southern Carolina Alliance in hosting many industrial prospects over the last several years. Whenever possible, we take our prospects over to the Sloman House, where Paula and her staff exude Southern hospitality, prepare traditional home-cooked meals, and remind these visitors why Hampton County is such a great place for their companies to call 'home.' It's always the perfect personal touch to add to a site visit.

"Flowers has given her time and talents to revitalizing and beautifying Yemassee," said Hampton County Administrator and Southern Carolina Alliance Board Member Sabrina Graham. "She was one of the key players in recruiting the television series, "The Week the Women Went," showcasing both Yemassee and Hampton County. Paula parlayed the opportunity of the TV show into the catalyst for renovating the historic Yemassee Train Depot."

Ms. Flowers credits the mayor, town council and the many volunteers for the success of the Yemassee Revitalization Corporation, which continues their renovation work on the train depot.

"Paula is the type of partner that any organization would be proud to have," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson. "She has worked closely with our economic development staff at the county and regional levels to welcome prospects, while volunteering in her many community development projects and running several small businesses."



Gov. Haley, Mr. Booker & Sec. Hitt

Randall S. Booker, TICO 2012 Ambassador for Economic Development for Jasper County

As President and CEO of TICO, Randall S. Booker runs a successful business in Jasper County which provides 75 jobs at the county-owned Cypress Ridge Industrial Park. TICO provides port-related services and goods, including terminal equipment at the Ports of Charleston and Savannah and internationally. Mr. Booker has worked with the county in planning utility extensions and upgrades in Cypress Ridge Industrial Park, where he owns additional, undeveloped property within the park. He has been cooperative in optioning his property to the county to accommodate potential prospects, and he has met with prospects expressing interest in locating in the park. Mr. Booker has consistently served as a quality source in providing information about port activity and business trends in the Jasper County area. He has earned Jasper County's respect in continuing to invest in operating a successful business in Jasper County and serving as a helpful resource for fostering future economic development in the county.



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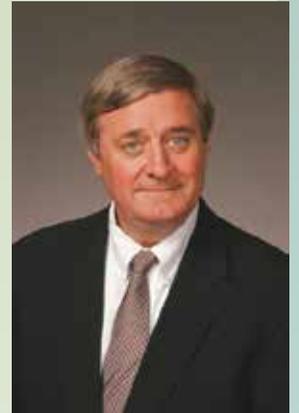


A Message from Our Chairman

As the year draws to a close, 2012 will be remembered by the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors as a momentous year of growth for the organization. In June, Colleton County officially joined the Alliance, followed by Jasper County, which was welcomed into the Alliance in July. While the membership of the Alliance grew from four to six counties, the population and service area of our region almost doubled in size, creating a much larger and more powerful legislative delegation and tremendous assets in terms of strategic location, diverse industries, workforce and resources, which will benefit all of the member counties of the Alliance.

The counties of SouthernCarolina Alliance share the belief that the way to improve the quality of life for our residents is through job creation. Our county council members, community leaders, and the SCA Board of Directors are focused on industrial recruitment as a means to build a promising future for our communities. In short, a good job can provide a good quality of life, and every job created in the region impacts a family. As a businessman and a former county councilman, this is the reason I became involved in SouthernCarolina Alliance in the 1990's, and it's the reason the organization continues to flourish today.

The challenges and opportunities in rural counties are unique, making regionalism even more important in marketing these counties to prospects around the world. That's why our team of professionals, led by Danny Black, and our board of directors are committed to providing the most aggressive, comprehensive and successful marketing and industrial recruitment program and product development in the Southeastern U.S., creating the best opportunities for our region. Economic development requires a team effort, and we look forward to partnering with our six counties to create the best environment for business and industry to call "home."



Mr. Johnny Williamson

*Best wishes for success and prosperity in the New Year,
Johnny Williamson
Chairman of SouthernCarolina Alliance*