

Meter Bearings Group to Establish First U.S. Production Facility in Colleton County

\$4.5 Million Investment Expected to Create 48 New Jobs

Meter Bearings Group, a designer and producer of ball and cylindrical roller bearings, has announced that the company will establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Colleton County. The \$4.5 million investment is expected to create 48 new jobs over the next five years.

The company plans for the 48,000-square-foot facility, located at 220 Anderson Road in Walterboro, to begin production by September 2015.

A family-owned company, Meter Bearings Group is headquartered in Robassomero, Torino, Italy. Founded in 1981, Meter has manufacturing plants in Italy and China and customer support offices in Germany and the United States.

"Part of our growth strategy is to establish a



Meter Bearings Group will locate in the former Hammer Mill Glass facility in Walterboro

manufacturing operation in the United States to reach our customers that already exist there. We chose Colleton County, thanks to the great and professional support of the South Carolina Department of Commerce staff and local officials," said Vittorio Musso, President and CEO of Meter S.p.A.

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Southern Carolina Region of South Carolina to Net 300 New Jobs and \$38 Million in Investments

Seven Companies to Locate or Expand in Six Counties

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley joined business and industry leaders on May 29th at Southern Carolina Alliance's Annual Regional Celebration at USC-Salkehatchie in Allendale to announce \$38.2 million in new capital investment and 304 new jobs coming to the six-county region of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.

Southern Carolina Alliance President & CEO Danny Black introduced the Governor and told the crowd that Governor Haley is the leading economic development force in the state.

"We have had the opportunity to participate in meetings with Governor Haley as she recruits manufacturers from around the world at the air show and in other venues," said Black. "Company executives feel the small town warmth that Governor Haley radiates and they know that in South Carolina, they are going to

(continued on page 6)



Representatives from all seven companies that announced new investments and expansions joined the Governor at SCA's Annual Regional Celebration



Meter Bearings Group (continued from page 1)

“We couldn’t be more excited to see Meter Bearings Group establish their first U.S. manufacturing location in South Carolina. Their \$4.5 million investment, 50 new jobs in Colleton County and increased business through the port will be a real boost to the area and the hardworking South Carolinians who live there,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.



The company first visited the state in late January as a result of an industrial recruitment effort led by the SouthernCarolina Alliance marketing team and the SC Department of Commerce in November 2013. Meter’s leadership was interested in the region because of its great location on the Eastern Seaboard with proximity to the ports, the excellent quality of life in the area, and the workforce.

“Our partnership with the state and SouthernCarolina Regional Development Alliance has made this project possible. Meter’s positive impact in Colleton County will be evident by new jobs and increased economic activity. They will join an outstanding roster of existing industry here,” said Colleton County Council Chairman Phillip Taylor.

According to SouthernCarolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black, “Meter will bring good jobs to Colleton County and will be an asset to our regional economy, which is powered by manufacturing. We are truly grateful to Meter’s Vittorio Musso for his company’s investment in Colleton County, and we congratulate the Colleton County team.”

“We are very pleased that Meter has decided to locate in Colleton County. We have worked to make Colleton County attractive for business and industry, and Meter has confirmed that it indeed is. Their investment in this community and the creation of new jobs will keep Colleton County moving ahead,” said Bill Workman, a member of the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors who serves as Co-Chair of the Colleton County Economic Alliance and as Colleton County Resource & Development Board Chairman.

Meter Bearings Group will utilize the Port of Charleston for its importing and exporting needs, which influenced the company’s

decision to locate in South Carolina.

“Meter Bearings Group’s decision to locate in South Carolina is great news for Colleton County, and the SCPA looks forward to fulfilling their import-export needs. Their announcement today is a reminder that our capable port system impacts every county across the state and handles cargo for businesses of all sizes,” said Jim Newsome, President and CEO of the SC Ports Authority.

The company is coordinating with readySC to create a customized, pre-employment training program. For more information about the new jobs and to apply, visit www.sctechjobs.com or visit the local SC Works office located at the Colleton Career Skills Center, 1085 Thunderbolt Road in Walterboro.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved a \$200,000 Rural Infrastructure Fund grant for real property improvements.

“Through our ease of access to global markets through the port and our strong workforce, Meter has realized the potential of doing business here in South Carolina. Meter will be a great addition to our growing community of foreign-owned companies in our state, and I look forward to seeing them succeed here,” added S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

For more information: on Meter Bearings Group, visit www.meterbearings.it; on the SC Department of Commerce, visit www.sccommerce.com; on the Southern Carolina region or SouthernCarolina Alliance, visit www.southerncarolina.org; on Colleton County, visit www.cceainc.com; and on our workforce training programs, www.readysc.org; or contact Kay Maxwell at 803.541.0023 or kmaxwell@southerncarolina.org.

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Augusta Fiberglass Coating Inc. Expanding into Bamberg County

\$800,000 Investment Has Generated 69 New Jobs

Augusta Fiberglass Coating Inc., the nation's leading manufacturer of custom fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) equipment, is expanding at their current location in Barnwell County and at their new facility in Bamberg County. The company's \$800,000 investment in new manufacturing equipment has created 69 new jobs.

"It is Augusta Fiberglass' pleasure to continue to work with the people of South Carolina to grow our economy," said John Boyd, President and founder of Augusta Fiberglass.

"Expansions by our existing companies continue to drive our state's economy. Today we celebrate another expansion as Augusta Fiberglass creates 69 new jobs for Bamberg County," said Governor Nikki Haley during her announcement of the expansion.

"We profoundly appreciate the tireless efforts of Governor



John and Caroline Boyd of Augusta Fiberglass Coating Inc. with Governor Haley

Haley on behalf of all South Carolinians," added Boyd at Southern Carolina Alliance's annual event with Governor Haley on May 29.

The expansion, which is ongoing, will accommodate the company's growing client demand at its current location at 86 Lake Cynthia Road in Blackville, S.C., and its new facility in neighboring Bamberg County.

"Augusta Fiberglass has been providing good jobs in our area for decades. We appreciate the additional investment and job creation in Bamberg and Barnwell Counties by Mr. Boyd and his company, and we look forward to working with Augusta Fiberglass as they continue

to grow," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson.

For more information on Augusta Fiberglass Coating Inc., please visit www.augustafiberglass.com.

Green Link Wood Industries Inc. to Locate in Bamberg County

\$1.2 Million Investment Expected to Bring 44 Jobs Immediately

Green Link Wood Industries Inc., a hardwood veneer manufacturer, has announced plans to locate its new manufacturing facility in Bamberg County. The \$1.2 million investment is expected to create 44 jobs.

The company plans to purchase and operate the former Kearsse Manufacturing Company Inc. facility located at 225 Veneer Lane in Olar, which it will use to produce hardwood veneer products that are primarily used in the engineered hardwood flooring industry. Green Link Wood Industries is a supplier to nationally known flooring retailers, including Bruce, Armstrong, Shaw, Anderson, Hartco and Harris, among others.

"We look forward to contributing to the strong wood manufacturing cluster that already exists within our region and our state. It is gratifying to know that we have such a sustainable hardwood resource within our region," said Chester Kearsse, Jr., President of Green Link Wood Industries, Inc. "There has been a wood manufacturing facility at this Bamberg County site since 1907 and we feel confident that we can continue to help our local tree farmers going forward. Without the assistance of the S.C. Department of Commerce and Bamberg County, this project would have not been possible. We are very appreciative of the support shown to us throughout this process."



Chester Kearsse and Andy Kimbell of Green Link Wood Industries Inc. with Governor Haley

"Congratulations to Green Link Wood Industries Inc. on their decision to open its first facility in Bamberg County with a \$1.2 million investment which will create 44 new jobs. We look forward to their growth and future impact in South Carolina," said Governor Nikki Haley.

"We are excited to see a company make a fresh start and trust its business in the capable hands of South Carolina. Green Link Wood Industries is a prime example of perseverance and a strong entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to seeing them grow and succeed in South Carolina," added SC Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Southern Carolina Alliance and Bamberg County welcome Green Link Wood Industries to our industrial community and appreciate their investment in our workforce. Every job created represents a family whose quality of life has been improved in Bamberg County," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Johnny Williamson.

"Bamberg County is a great place to do business, and we are proud that Green Link Wood Industries President Ched Kearsse chose to grow his business here. We stand ready to assist him in any way that we can," stated Larry Haynes, Chairman of Bamberg County Council.

Kronotex Expanding Facility in Barnwell County

\$29.5 Million Investment Expected to Create 28 New Jobs

Kronotex USA, one of the largest producers of laminate flooring in the United States, has announced the ongoing expansion of its operations in Barnwell County. The \$29.5 million investment is expected to create 28 new jobs with plans to add a new paper impregnation process to enhance and diversify designs of its finished products.

Kronotex plans to expand its existing Barnwell plant located at South Carolina Advanced Technology Park by an additional 90,000 square feet. The facility upfit is expected to be completed by September.

This announcement marks Kronotex's third expansion at its Barnwell facility in less than a decade. Overall, the flooring manufacturer has invested more than \$126 million and has generated more than 190 jobs in Barnwell County since 2005.

"Kronotex USA is extremely grateful for the support we have received over the past 10 years from the State of South Carolina, the Southern Carolina Alliance and all the communities in Barnwell and the surrounding counties. Our company would never have been able to invest over \$126 million in our Barnwell site if it were not for our 190 hardworking, dedicated employees who live in these communities and the 'Business Friendly' atmosphere of South Carolina that is so enthusiastically demonstrated by Governor Haley," said Norm Voss, President of Kronotex USA.



Norm Voss of Kronotex USA with Governor Haley

"Kronotex is an international leader in the industry, and their North American plant here in Barnwell County is a leader in our regional economy, providing good jobs and tax revenue for our area. Their announcement to bring a paper treatment operation here in addition to their other manufacturing is more good news for our county," said Barnwell County Council Chairman Freddie Houston.

According to Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black, "Kronotex's decision to once again invest in our region is a testament to our workforce. We appreciate the help that Governor Haley and the S.C. Department of Commerce provided in this project, and we congratulate Kronotex on their continued success."

"Kronotex's decision to expand in Barnwell County is further indication that the region's skilled workforce and the state's business-friendly climate are working to help existing businesses grow and compete. The company's continued trust in Barnwell County and South Carolina will have a lasting effect on the community and the state for years to come," said S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Kronotex, a division of Swiss Krono Group, has 11 plants in eight countries worldwide. The company's products include wood panels used in construction, furniture, and laminate flooring.

For more information on Kronotex please visit www.kronotexusa.com.

Palmetto Aero to Open Three Facilities in Colleton County

\$2.5 Million Investment Expected to Create 44 New Jobs

Palmetto Aero, a manufacturer and producer of sheet metal fasteners and airframe components for the aerospace industry, is establishing a corporate presence in Colleton County. The \$2.5 million investment is expected to create 44 new jobs.

Palmetto Aero plans to build a 77,000-square-foot hangar on Robertson Boulevard at the Lowcountry Regional Airport, in Walterboro, S.C. The Walterboro facility will house the company's manufacturing hangar, manufacturing aerospace sheet metal fasteners and components for airframes. The company will also produce the Air Truck, a single engine utility type aircraft.

Additionally, Palmetto Aero has acquired two existing hangars within the Lowcountry Regional Airport complex, located on 467 Aviation Way, which will act as the company's headquarters and research and development facility. Colleton County's former WWII Hangar, located on 566 Aviation Way, will serve as the completion and delivery center, electronics installation and repair operation for the company.

According to Dennis Dent, Chairman and CEO of Palmetto Aero, "While Palmetto Aero is a new company, we have been in the aviation manufacturing business in Ohio since 1979. We looked at many possible locations to launch our new venture and found the Lowcountry Regional Airport to have the best mix of



Dennis Dent and Renae Hammel of Palmetto Aero and Heyward Horton, Colleton County Economic Alliance, with Governor Haley

advantages that we sought. The airport and community are poised for growth, and we look forward to getting in on the 'ground floor.' The location is also ideal for the aerospace market with Air Truck, Boeing, and Gulfstream and utilizing the Port of Charleston for the world market."

"We are pleased to welcome Palmetto Aero to Colleton County. Palmetto Aero's enthusiasm about locating in Colleton County has been inspiring, and we feel it will spark even more interest from other aviation-related industries," said Colleton County Council Chairman Phillip Taylor.

"The Lowcountry Regional Airport is the largest general aviation airport in South Carolina and is one of our greatest

assets. Dennis Dent and Palmetto Aero's investment will make our airport an even stronger force for the aviation industry in Colleton County and the entire Lowcountry region," remarked Bill Workman, Chairman of the Colleton County Resource & Development Board and Economic Alliance.

Candidates interested in applying for positions available at Palmetto Aero may call or visit the Colleton Career Skills Center, located at 1085 Thunderbolt Road in Walterboro - (843) 538-1613.

For more information please visit www.palmettoaero.com.

Dixie Poly-Drum Corporation Rebuilding Hampton County Facility

\$1.1 Million Investment to Create 84 New Jobs

Dixie Poly-Drum Corporation, a leading manufacturer of plastic safety and workplace efficiency products, is rebuilding its facility in Hampton County after a fire forced the company to close its doors six months ago. The company plans to reinvest \$1.1 million in rebuilding the facility, creating 84 jobs.

Established in Hampton County in 1984, the Dixie Poly-Drum Corporation is a leading developer and manufacturer of plastic safety and workplace efficiency products, including safety barricades and the patented Supershipper Drum, some of which are manufactured with 100 percent recycled plastic post-consumer resin (PCR).

"Dixie Poly-Drum will rise from the ashes and rebuild due in no small part to the generosity and support of the State of South Carolina and Hampton County. Because of that support, our tragedy will not keep us down, and we will rebuild and expand and become better than we were before," said Beth Zilbert, President of Dixie Poly-Drum Board of Directors.

"The rebuilding of Dixie Poly-Drum is a testament to the strength of Hampton County's business community. As one of the area's largest manufacturers, the company's \$1.1 million reinvestment in its Yemassee facility and creation of 84 new jobs will have a significant impact to the citizens of Hampton County and the surrounding Lowcountry region," said Governor Nikki



Beth Zilbert of Dixie Poly-Drum Corporation with Governor Haley

Haley.

"Good jobs created through economic development are the key to improving the quality of life for our communities, and we are thrilled that Dixie Poly-Drum has decided to invest once again in Hampton County. We appreciate the job creation and investment in our workforce and we look forward to working with the company for many years to come," added Hugh Gray, Chairman of Hampton County Council.

According to Bill Hager, Chairman of the Hampton County Economic Development Commission and a member of the SCA Board of Directors, "We are very excited about Dixie Poly-Drum's decision to rebuild and expand their manufacturing operations here in

Hampton County. Their presence is an asset to our industrial community and we appreciate their investment and the prosperity it will bring to our citizens."

Dixie Poly-Drum will begin hiring associates immediately. Positions to be filled in the renovated 36,000-square-foot facility, located at 28 Dixie Poly Drive, include operators and production supervisors. Interested applicants may call 843-589-6660, or they may visit the facility to pick up an application and set up an interview.

For more information on Dixie Poly-Drum Corporation please visit www.dixiepolydrum.com.

KBRS to Locate a New Manufacturing Facility in Jasper County

\$2.6 Million Investment to Create 30 New Jobs

KBRS, Inc., an advanced composites manufacturer of custom shower and tileable components, will open a new manufacturing facility in Jasper County. The \$2.6 million investment is expected to create 30 new jobs.

"We are excited to move to Jasper County, and we love the area. The economic development team and the community were extremely helpful in assisting us in locating in Hardeeville. I have never worked with such a responsive and professional group in completing a project. They made the transition seamless," said Tommy Davis, President and CEO of KBRS.

"Jasper County welcomes KBRS, Inc. to our diverse industrial community. Every job that they create will affect our citizens and improve our quality of life. We celebrate their investment," said Barbara Clark, Chairman of Jasper County Council.

According to SouthernCarolina 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 delighted that KBRS, Inc. has chosen to locate here. We welcome the



Tommy Davis of KBRS, Inc and Marty Sauls, SCA Board Member, with Governor Haley

job creation and investment into our community and look forward to working with them."

For nearly a decade, KBRS has been constructing and distributing custom shower solutions for homeowners, professionals and major hotels, such as Marriott, Hilton and Holiday Inn. As part of this expansion, the company will also relocate its headquarters to South Carolina.

Governor Nikki Haley welcomed KBRS to our state, saying, "KBRS' decision to locate its new facility in Hardeeville is another win for one of our state's rural counties. We celebrate the company's \$2.6 million investment in Jasper County and the creation of 30 new jobs. We remain committed to

strengthening our state's business climate and bringing job-creating investments to all areas of South Carolina."

Build-out of the 60,000 square-foot facility, located at 8406 Speedway Boulevard in Hardeeville, will be completed in the coming months, and KBRS will begin hiring associates in November 2014. Interested job applicants may contact Leslie Manor at (912) 352-0442 for full details.

For more information on KBRS, Inc. please visit www.kbrsinc.com.

Progressive Packaging to Open Distribution Center in Hampton County

\$500,000 Investment Expected to Create Five New Jobs

Progressive Packaging Inc., a full-service packaging solutions company based in Simpsonville, is opening a new distribution center in Hampton County to accommodate its growing consumer base. The \$500,000 investment will create five new jobs in the area in the first 12 months of service.

The company manufactures and distributes corrugated boxes and other packaging materials at its Simpsonville facility. Progressive Packaging chose to expand in South Carolina due to its advantageous transportation system and connectivity, selecting Hampton County because of its close proximity to Interstate 95.

In making his announcement, Russ Crowe, President of Progressive Packaging, remarked, "We hold this administration accountable for this expansion, not only in our Simpsonville facility, but also with our Hampton County location. Governor Haley's commitment to jobs for South Carolina has enticed manufacturers to continue their pilgrimage to our great state. Progressive is positioning itself to benefit from that growth."

"Progressive Packaging has been a trusted member of



*Russ Crowe of Progressive Packaging
with Governor Haley*

South Carolina's business community for more than 18 years, and we celebrate the company's expansion in Hampton County and its continued investment in South Carolina," added Governor Haley.

"Hampton County provides a great location and an excellent workforce for a distribution and packaging company like Progressive Packaging, Inc., and we welcome them. We appreciate their investment in our community and look forward to working with them as they will be a great business partner for the county," said Hugh Gray, Chairman of Hampton County Council.

"Progressive Packaging, Inc.'s investment into Hampton County is celebrated because these new jobs will make a big difference to our families. We

are delighted that they have chosen our area for their operation," stated Bill Hager, Chairman of Hampton County Economic Development Commission.

Candidates interested in applying for positions with Progressive Packaging may send all hiring requests and information to Lisa Askew at LAskew@progpack.com.

For more information please visit www.progressivepackaging.com.

New Jobs *continued from page 1*

get personal attention. More importantly, they trust our Governor and they know that when she promises them the best workforce, the best location, and the best environment for business, she delivers."

The Governor discussed job creation, industry recruitment, workforce development and education with the crowd of more than 400 business and community leaders; then she surprised the crowd by inviting several industry executives onstage and making the 7 economic development announcements in one evening.

"It was a special night for the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors and the county leaders in our area," said Chairman Johnny Williamson. "We are proud of our Governor, who grew up right here in Bamberg County, and we are proud of our manufacturing communities in the region. I dare say that it was quite historic to have a governor make 7 economic development announcements in one day, and we were glad to be a part of it."

According to the SCA Chairman, the county developers and county councils in the region have worked closely with the expanding companies in the area to create the best conditions for growth.

SCA President Danny Black added, "Our economic development professionals, Governor Haley, and the SC Department of Commerce work throughout the year with our local elected officials and business leaders to ensure that our region's workforce, business climate and infrastructure are ready for industry."

The economic development announcements included expansions by Augusta Fiberglass Coating, Dixie Poly-Drum



Governor Nikki Haley at SCA's Annual Regional Celebration

Corporation, and Kronotex USA and new industry locations by Green Link Wood Industries, Palmetto Aero, Progressive Packaging, Inc., and KBRS, Inc.

The Governor joined SCA in recognizing the S.C. Economic Ambassadors from the six counties, and SouthernCarolina Alliance later recognized Dr. Al Waraich of Barnwell County as SouthernCarolina Alliance's Regional Economic Ambassador for 2014. Dr. Waraich's generous donation of a facility and property in Allendale enabled SCA to open the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Center in August 2013.

For more photos from the event and for the full press releases on the companies, visit us on facebook at SouthernCarolina Alliance or our website: www.SouthernCarolina.org.

Colleton County is Certified as Work Ready

Colleton County became the state's third county to receive the South Carolina Work Ready Community designation through ACT. This means it has met all its workforce and education goals that demonstrate to businesses its strong workforce and commitment to economic growth.

"South Carolina's world-class workforce is one of the main reasons we've seen record economic activity in our state," said Gov. Nikki R. Haley. "We couldn't be more excited about Colleton County becoming a Certified Work Ready Community and continuing South Carolina's strong commitment to expanding economic opportunity through the participation in this nationally recognized initiative."

A national effort, led by ACT, the initiative provides a framework for states to strengthen economic development using a community-based approach grounded in certifying counties as work ready. To earn a Certified Work Ready Community designation, counties have to reach goals in earning National Career Readiness Certificates, meet or exceed the three-year graduation rate average or improvement percentage, and engage business support.

"Congratulations to Colleton County for earning the Work Ready Community designation," said Mikee Johnson, President of Cox Industries and Chairman of the South Carolina Workforce Investment Board. "The significance behind the South Carolina initiative is that it brings together community leaders with a common goal of improving educational achievements and the employability of its workforce. Colleton's achievement in



becoming a Certified Work Ready Community reinforces the fact that South Carolina is committed to having the best business environment possible."

"I am excited to celebrate Colleton County becoming a Certified Work Ready Community. Earning this designation takes great leadership, teamwork and commitment all in an effort to help bolster the county's workforce and economic development standing," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Cheryl M. Stanton. "I continue to be impressed with the state's rural counties, and I look forward to being a part of their many success stories to come."

Clarendon and McCormick counties previously received Certified Work Ready Community designation. South Carolina was one of four pilot states selected to participate in the ACT Certified Work Ready Community program.

For additional information, please visit www.sworkready.org.

Crescent Dairy & Beverages Celebrates Grand Opening in Walterboro



Crescent Dairy & Beverages, LLC announced in October of 2012 its plans to invest \$30 million and create 60 new jobs in Colleton County. The company has been up-fitting the building they purchased at the Colleton County Commerce Center and held their grand opening ceremonies on July 9, 2014. Governor Haley joined Gabriel Pascual, Senior Advisor & Officer of Crescent Dairy, and local officials to celebrate the occasion and tour the new state-of-the-art facility. Pictured above from left to right are: Gabriel Pascual, Senior Advisor & Officer; Pedro Brache, CEO; Governor Nikki Haley; Dr. and Mrs. Julio Brache, Chairman of the Board of Pasteurizadora Rica; Miguel Arrendondo, General Manager; and Julio Virgilio Brache, VP of Pasteurizadora Rica.

Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program Certifies Third Class of NCCER Welders

The third class of advanced welders trained through SouthernCarolina Alliance's Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training (AMST) Program earned their NCCER certification and graduated the program on Thursday, June 12, at the AMST Center in Allendale.

"Ten welders are now being placed in jobs and have successfully completed the NCCER certification requirements," said SCA President and CEO Danny Black. "Since the classes began in August 2013, 44 local residents have been certified through this program, and 35 of them have found employment as welders right here in the region, and around the state of South Carolina."

The welders, who live in the SouthernCarolinaAlliance region of Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties, completed 10-14 weeks of full-time Advanced Structural Welding Technology training and met the exacting standards of NCCER certification.

NCCER is the national certification association universally recognized by industry and government as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for construction and maintenance craft professionals.

SouthernCarolina Alliance created a pilot program to offer the NCCER level of welding training to meet the needs of the region's existing and prospective industries. Several regional studies have indicated the need for welders with advanced skills, while many of the prospective industries encountered through SCA's industrial recruitment program have cited qualified welders as the top decision driver in choosing the location for their next operation. Highly skilled welders are in demand worldwide, and welders in the region earn \$13-\$28 per hour.

The program is managed by the renowned S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP), a non-profit organization known for improving the productivity and technological capabilities of America's small manufacturers and assisting them with the transfer of manufacturing technology. These services are offered directly by SCMEP staff, outside consultants, or a



Back row, left to right: Jesse Thornton, Reginald Murrell, Trevin Mole, Christopher Johnson and Instructor Erin Williams; Front row, left to right: Darryl Moore, Savar Leonard and Lamont Hicks

combination of both.

John Irion, President and CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, manages the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program, providing the director and welding instructors.

The 44 welders have been interviewed by companies throughout the S.C. Lowcountry, and many have already been placed in jobs with local companies. Some of the certified welders will continue on to the 10-week NCCER Advanced Nuclear Welding Technology Program to seek welding jobs in the nuclear field. The newest trainees are now taking welding tests and submitting applications and resumes to local industries interested in hiring welders.

The program offers full-time, hands-on experience that prepares the trainees to go directly into the workforce. It is partially funded by the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge through SouthernCarolina Alliance, which was named as one of 13 Challenge Winners in the country for their innovative program to create efficient and effective workforce training tailored specifically for advanced manufacturing in the region. The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge program was made possible by funding through the USDA and EDA.

For more information on the training program, visit the website: www.scweldingjobs.com



Newport News Supports SCA's Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program

Huntington Ingalls Industries' (NYSE:HII) Newport News Shipbuilding division is donating training resources to the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA) for a welding program in Allendale County, S.C.

The SCA's Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program has already provided 47 students with welding training, and SCA is now working to expand the program by implementing curricula developed and used by Newport News Shipbuilding. Newport News representatives presented the training materials to Southern Carolina Alliance on June 25. A shipyard welding instructor will work with the training facility staff to implement the curricula.

"Newport News Shipbuilding has found that by working closely and sharing some of our training materials with local community colleges and technical schools, we create a richer pipeline of talent applying for career opportunities with our company," said Bill Docalovich, Newport News' Director of Trades Services.

Going beyond basic instruction, the curricula supplied by Newport News includes computer-based training followed by hands-on practice led by facility instructors. The instructors will have the opportunity to learn Newport News' instructional style and use it with their students. With Newport News' influence, the students will develop the skills necessary for welding in the manufacturing industry.

The shipyard opened a field office in Aiken, S.C. in January as part of its continuing efforts to expand the company's business in the Department of Energy and commercial energy markets. The office focuses on marketing professional services to the Savannah River Site as well as the regional commercial nuclear industry and is capable of providing any skill-set necessary to design, plan, construct and test large complex nuclear projects.

"The curricula donation demonstrates Newport News' commitment to the community," said Jill O'Donnell, Manager of Nuclear Engineering Projects, who oversees the Aiken office. "Since opening the office we have looked for ways to invest in workforce development in this region. The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program is a great fit for the type of expertise we can contribute and we look forward to continuing to work with SCA and the counties they serve."

"Several recent professional studies have indicated the need for thousands of welders and pipefitters in the Carolinas and Georgia over the next five to 10 years," said Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA. With assistance from Newport News, the facility's welding program will help prepare the next generation of welders meet this growing need."

Huntington Ingalls Industries designs, builds and maintains nuclear and non-nuclear ships for the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard and provides after-market services for military ships around the globe. For more than a century, HII has built more ships in more ship classes than any other U.S. naval shipbuilder at its Newport



Left to right: Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive VP & COO; Bill Robinson, SCA Director of Economic Development, Allendale County; John Irion, President & CEO of SCMEP; Bill Docalovich, Newport News Director of Trade Services and Danny Black, President & CEO of SCA



GaVonna Chaney, a welding student at the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Training Program

News Shipbuilding and Ingalls Shipbuilding divisions. Employing about 38,000 in Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana and California, HII also provides a wide variety of products and services to the commercial energy industry and other government customers, including the Department of Energy.

For more information about Huntington Ingalls Industries, visit: www.huntingtoningalls.com.

In The Spotlight: SCA Board of Directors

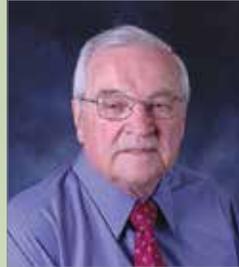
Southern Carolina Alliance's Board of Directors is comprised of the region's business and industry leaders, county council appointees, and investor members from around the state who volunteer their time and expertise to assist our region in industrial recruitment and marketing, product development, community and workforce development. The 2014 Board of Directors includes leaders in the agribusiness, aerospace, metal fabrication, energy, chemical and wood products sectors of manufacturing, as well as the fields of higher education; economic development, permitting and tax law; health care; public relations and journalism; and finance. This diverse board is committed to improving the quality of life for our counties through job creation.



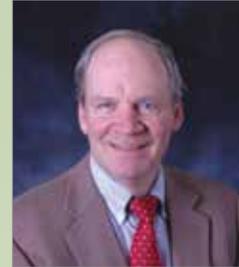
Johnny Williamson
Chairman



Buddy Phillips
*Vice Chairman
Hampton Co. Council*



Lowell Jowers
*Second Vice Chairman
Barnwell Co. Council*



Robert Hurst
*Treasurer
Phoenix Manufacturing*



Carl Gooding
*Executive Committee
Allendale Co. Council*



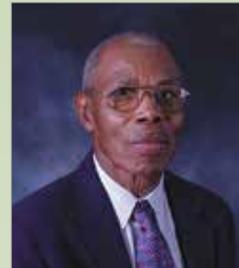
Freddie Houston
*Executive Committee
Barnwell Co. Council*



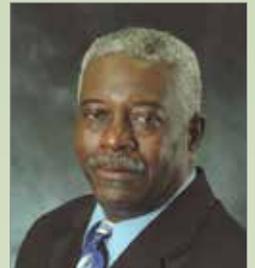
Brad Hutto
*Executive Committee
State Senator, Dist. 40*



Gary W. Morris
*Executive Committee
Haynsworth Sinkler
Boyd, P.A.*



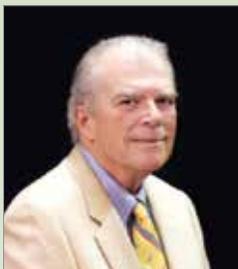
Rev. Isaiah Odom
*Executive Committee
Bamberg Co. Council*



James L. Pinkney
*Executive Committee
Allendale Co. Council*



L. Martin Sauls, IV
*Executive Committee
Jasper Co. Council*



Bill Workman
*Executive Committee
Colleton County
Economic Alliance*



Terry Wright
*Executive Committee
City of Brunson*



Jimmy Baker
Palmetto Electric Coop



Bronco Bostick
City of Hardeeville



Ike Byrd
AT&T



Paige Carlton
Thompson Construction



Dr. Ann Carmichael
USC Salkehatchie



Robert Connelly
Connelly Farms



Barbara Lewis
Allendale County EDC



Tim Dangerfield
EnergySolutions



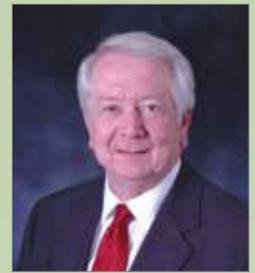
John Fleming
Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung



Dr. Joe Flowers
Colleton Co. Council



Bill Hager
SCE&G



Buck Harvey
Harrison Peeples Health Center



Larry Haynes
Bamberg Co. Council



Jim Hill
MeadWestvaco



John Johnson
Precision Metal Fabricators, Inc.



Lee Petrolawicz
South State Bank



April Lucas
Nexsen Pruet



Milton Pope
Parker Poe Consulting



Alzena Robinson
Bamberg Co. Council



Brad Samuel
SCANA



Barry Moore
Walterboro Press & Standard



Ron Schroder
SRNL



Jason Taylor
Town of Ridgeland



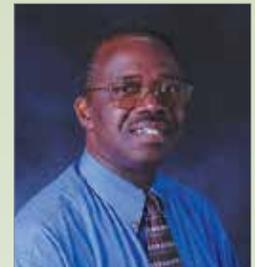
Phillip Taylor
Colleton Co. Council



Warner Peacock
New River Auto Mall



Nathan Wilson
J.R. Wilson Construction



Thomas Williams
SRR

SCA Board of Advisors

Robert Chatman
Bamberg County EDC

Sabrina Graham
Hampton County

Carl Kilpatrick
South State Bank

Thessa Smith
Allendale County

Jerry Creech
Barnwell County Council

Kevin Griffin
Colleton County

Joey Preston
Bamberg County

Pickens Williams, Jr.
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