



Swiss Krono Group Announces a \$230 Million Expansion in Barnwell County

Company's investment to create 105 new jobs in Barnwell, S.C.

Swiss Krono Group, one of the world's leading producers of engineered wood products, and its American subsidiary, KronotexUSA Holdings, Inc., have announced the expansion of their manufacturing operations in Barnwell County. The company is investing \$230 million to build another manufacturing facility, a high-density fiberboard (HDF) mill, and expand its laminate flooring production, creating 105 new jobs over the next few years.

"We've been very happy with the quality of the workforce talent here in South Carolina," said Norm Voss, former CEO and

a member of the Board of Directors of Kronotex USA Holdings, Inc. "We're delighted to be able to employ more Americans here in Barnwell and grow our exceptional relationship with the local people, businesses and government."

"South Carolina has been a great investment partner for European countries. We appreciate the collaborative efforts of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and our many partners, including Barnwell County governmental agencies. Their patience, perseverance and continuous support have been and will continue to be instrumental in the future success of

(continued on page 2)

Black Water Barrels LLC to Manufacture in Bamberg County

Startup investing \$3.6 million at facility in Bamberg, S.C.



Black Water Barrels LLC, a new coopeage, will establish manufacturing operations in Bamberg County. The company is investing \$3.6 million in the former Zeigler automotive facility and creating 57 new jobs over the next five years to

produce white oak barrels for the growing bourbon industry.

"We are very excited for the opportunity to build our barrel manufacturing company in Bamberg County, S.C. During the process of visiting several states and counties, the people of

Bamberg welcomed us with open arms," said Greg Pierce, President of Black Water Barrels, LLC. "We look forward to being part of such a great community and working with the county and state to become South Carolina's only coopeage."

"It's exciting to see new companies choose our state as their home for the future because it proves that Team South Carolina's approach to providing a business-friendly environment is working. Black Water Barrels' investment, and the 57 new jobs it will create, will make a real difference in Bamberg County, and is a reason to celebrate across South Carolina," said SC Governor Nikki Haley.

(continued on page 2)

Kronotex *(continued from page 1)*

our South Carolina operations,” said Max Von Tippelskirch, a member of the Swiss Krono Group Management Board.

“Kronotex USA has provided hundreds of direct and indirect jobs in our area over the last decade. We congratulate Kronotex on their phenomenal growth at the Barnwell facility. This announcement is a great way to kick-off 2016 for our region,” said SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Buddy Phillips.

“To have a great international company like Swiss Krono Group continue to grow, succeed and invest in our state proves that the Team South Carolina approach to economic development is working. This \$230 million investment, and the 105 new jobs it will create, is a real reason to celebrate, and we look forward to seeing the impact that this company will continue to have across our state,” remarked S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

Barnwell County Council Chairman David Kenner added, “Kronotex continues to be a leader in their industry and a pillar of our local economy. We will continue to create the best business environment to encourage job growth and investment for companies like Kronotex USA, and we look forward to their expansion.”

According to Barnwell County EDC Chairman Tommy Boyleston, “Barnwell County appreciates Kronotex’s investment in our workforce and the impact the company has had on our community. These new jobs are welcome news for the families of Barnwell County.”

Headquartered in Switzerland, Swiss Krono Group’s origins can be traced back to 1966. Today, with facilities in France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine and



Kronotex USA's Barnwell facility located in the South Carolina Advanced Technology Park.

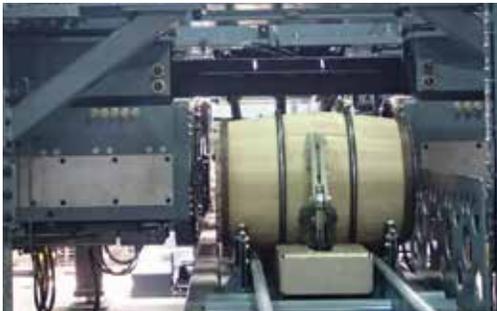
the United States, the company employs more than 4,500 workers worldwide.

The announced expansion will allow KronotexUSA to produce 300,000 cubic-meters of HDF per year, which the company will use for laminate flooring manufacturing operations and sell to furniture, cabinet, fixture, door and other wood-based manufacturers. In total, the project will increase the company’s annual laminate flooring capacity by an additional 8 million square-meters.

Preliminary engineering has been completed and construction is expected to start by mid-2016, with HDF operations to begin by the summer of 2018. Once completed, this expansion will increase KronotexUSA’s Barnwell County’s workforce to 275 employees. Those interested in applying for one of the new positions should visit the company’s careers page online.

Further information is available at www.krono.com and www.kronotexusa.com.

Black Water Barrels *(continued from page 1)*



“Not only will Black Water Barrels create 57 new jobs, the company will manufacture a unique product here in the Southern Carolina region of the state. We are excited about the diversity this manufacturing operation will bring to our forest products sector, as well as the economic stimulation it provides to Bamberg and the surrounding counties. We are proud that Black Water Barrels chose to call Bamberg ‘home’ for their production facility,” added SouthernCarolina Alliance Chairman Buddy Phillips.

A startup firm, Black Water Barrels LLC will specialize in the manufacture of 53-gallon barrels made of FAS-grade, quarter-sawn American White Oak for use in the bourbon industry. Black Water Barrels LLC has full capacity to produce additional size barrels, including but not limited to 60-gallon and 30-gallon. In addition, other wood profiles will be available to serve the spirits, beer and wine industries.

“Entrepreneurial activity and the success of new businesses is critical to South Carolina’s economy. I offer my congratulations to Black Water Barrels on this remarkable achievement and

look forward to supporting them as they grow and prosper in our state,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

According to Bamberg County Council Chairman Joe Guess, “Black Water Barrels will be a welcome addition to our manufacturing community and another great wood products industry in Bamberg County. On behalf of Bamberg County Council and our citizens, we would like to thank Black Water Barrels for investing in our people.”

To house its operations, the company is purchasing the 9,000 SF location of the former Zeigler auto dealership, located at 3941 Main Highway in Bamberg, SC, with plans for a 12,000 square-foot expansion to the building.

“The people of Bamberg appreciate the jobs that Black Water Barrels will create, and we appreciate the support we have received from Governor Haley, the S.C. Department of Commerce, SouthernCarolina Alliance and our county council in helping this new company locate here,” said Bamberg County Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Clara Thomas. “We look forward to working with the Black Water Barrels manufacturing team.”

Expected to be fully operational late in the second quarter of 2016, Black Water Barrels LLC anticipates hiring to begin in April 2016.

To make order inquiries or obtain additional information on the company, contact info@blackwaterbarrels.com.

Italian BUSCOT Locating Their First U.S. Manufacturing Operations in Colleton County

BUSCOT LLC, an Italy-based producer of specialty bearings, is establishing manufacturing operations in Colleton County. The \$1.15 million investment in the project is expected to create 10 new jobs over the next five years.

BUSCOT will locate in the Meter Bearings facility in the Colleton County Industrial Park at 225 Anderson Road in Walterboro, where Meter Bearings, another Italian company, invested \$4.5 million and plans to employ another 48 employees over the next three years.

"We are excited about doing business in the U.S. When Meter Bearings located here, it was great incentive for us to do the same. We work well with them and can fill the need for more specialized products. Colleton County is the best U.S. location for us," said BUSCOT LLC Co-founder Giorgio Bussone.

"We are proud to welcome BUSCOT LLC as the second Italian company to locate in Colleton County. The work that County Council and economic development professionals in the Southern Carolina region have done to make Colleton County competitive for business is paying off with a global reputation for success," said Bill Workman, Chairman of the Colleton County Resource & Development Board and a member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors.

"We are confident that BUSCOT LLC will find skilled workers in Colleton County. Through Palmetto Training and the Colleton Career Skills Center, we have an excellent training resource in place that they will be able to utilize to meet their specific workforce needs in machining technology. We are pleased to welcome them to Colleton County," added Colleton County Council Chairman Steven Murdaugh.

Governor Nikki Haley said, "We're excited to welcome BUSCOT to the South Carolina family, and we're proud the company's first U.S. facility will call Walterboro home. When Team South Carolina works together, companies like



Andrea Bussone of BUSCOT, LLC, oversees the installation of their machinery at their manufacturing facility in Walterboro, SC.

BUSCOT take notice - and that keeps us motivated to keep the momentum going."

The company will produce flanges, turned washers, and turned rings for precision ball and roller bearings. According to the company, an initial customer base has already been established and will grow as production begins in 2016.

"South Carolina continues to lead the way in the manufacturing renaissance, and the announcement by BUSCOT LLC is a testament to that. This \$1.15 million investment speaks to the pro-business environment we've cultivated in all corners of our state," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Southern Carolina Alliance welcomes the BUSCOT team to our growing international business community in the region," said Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman Buddy Phillips, adding, "BUSCOT is the fourth Italian manufacturer to locate here in recent years, and we are looking forward to recruiting more European manufacturers this year."

BUSCOT Founders Giorgio Bussone and Maurizio Bussone gained their foundation in the bearing industry in Varisella, Italy and have more than 30 years of successful experience. Marta Bussone will manage local manufacturing and administration.

Welcome to Our Newest Southern Carolina Alliance Investors:

AECOM | SCA Bronze Investor

Davis & Floyd, Inc. | SCA Bronze Investor

THS Constructors, Inc. | SCA Bronze Investor

SC Legislative Black Caucus Holds Rural Economic Summit in Bamberg County

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus partnered with Voorhees College and Southern Carolina Alliance to host an Economic Summit on February 19 at Voorhees College to discuss the challenges and opportunities of rural economic development. Led by Senator John Scott, the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus invited community and business leaders from the Southern Carolina Alliance region to participate.

Senator Margie Bright-Matthews, Senator John Matthews, Senator Brad Hutto, Representative Lonnie Hosey, Representative Joseph Jefferson, Sr., Chairman of the SC Legislative Black Caucus Rep. Carl L. Anderson, and Representative Justin Bamberg were among the legislators who participated in the event. Southern Carolina Alliance board members Barry Moore, Isaiah Odom, Larry Haynes, Freddie Houston, Ike Byrd, and Brad Samuel, and SCA Vice President Kay Maxwell and SCA Chairman Buddy Phillips were also in attendance.

Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black presented an overview to the Caucus and community leaders of the 6-county area (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties), which included information on long-term and short-term opportunities, as well as the Promise

Zone designation for the region.

Representatives from the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus' Corporate Roundtable membership were present, giving local businesses, educators and local elected officials an opportunity to share with them how issues such as infrastructure, health care, education and community development affect their region's ability to recruit economic development.

Richard Smith, CEO of North America for Roding Technology, a German technology company, discussed manufacturing opportunities in the automotive and aerospace sectors in South Carolina, as well as his company's investment in research and development at Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). Mr. Smith's presentation included his perspective on how rural areas can better recruit manufacturers and prepare the workforce for future manufacturing opportunities.

Students from Voorhees and surrounding colleges, universities and technical schools had a roundtable discussion with legislators and businesses on some of the challenges they are facing in their efforts to further their educational and career goals.

For more information on the S.C. Legislative Black Caucus, visit their website: www.sclbc.org.



Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA, gave an overview of SCA and current opportunities at the SC Legislative Black Caucus event.



Community and business leaders joined Legislators and SCA officials for the SC Legislative Black Caucus at Voorhees College in Denmark.

NARENCO to Locate Solar Power Operations in Allendale County

National Renewable Energy Corporation (NARENCO), a leading renewable energy independent power producer focused on development, engineering, procurement, construction and operations of utility scale and commercial solar installations, is on track to invest more than \$85 million to establish solar power operations in Allendale County.



According to NARENCO Vice President of Development Jon Burke, "We are excited to advance one of the first large-scale solar facilities in South Carolina and look forward to being a new member of the Allendale County community. Once constructed, our renewable solar facility will provide significant discretionary property tax income along with delivering on-peak power to serve S.C. ratepayers when they need it most. We are truly honored to partner with Allendale County and hope this facility is just the first of many such investments in the county and South Carolina at large."

Established in 2009 and headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, NARENCO has matured into one of the largest solar developers in North America and is currently ranked No. 6 in Solar Power World's list of the nation's Top Solar Developers. The firm has more than 65 solar facilities in various stages of development across the Southeast, with an additional 85 megawatts under long-term operations and maintenance

contracts. In South Carolina, the firm is developing another 400 megawatts and seeks to invest more than \$800 million across the state over the next five years.

"Allendale County welcomes NARENCO and their solar project to our family of alternative energy companies in our region. We appreciate the company's investment in our county, which will assist with tax revenue to fund county services to our residents. We also appreciate this effort to provide innovative solutions to our state's energy needs," added Allendale County Council Chairman James Pinkney.

"NARENCO's decision to locate their solar facility in Allendale will expand our tax base while creating another green energy business here in Allendale. We thank them for their commitment to our community," said Allendale Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Barbara Lewis.

Expected to be operational by the end of 2017, the Allendale County facility, which is located off of River Road, will produce renewable solar energy from photovoltaic panels currently sized at 70 megawatts of alternating current (AC) in nameplate capacity, which by itself, is seven times larger than any one currently proposed Distributed Energy Resource project. One megawatt AC of solar energy is enough to provide clean energy to approximately 200 South Carolina homes.

For more information on NARENCO, visit www.narenco.com.

Government Training Institute Expands Under New Leadership

GTI Will Create 12 New Jobs and \$2.5 Million Investment



Government Training Institute (GTI), a premier private law enforcement and military training company located in Barnwell, South Carolina, will expand their Southeast operations with new training offerings and facility updates, according to CEO Von Bolin, a South Carolina businessman who recently purchased the company. Under Bolin's leadership, the company is creating 12 new jobs and investing \$2.5 million at their training facility and headquarters, located in the South Carolina Advanced Technology Park in Barnwell, South Carolina.

"Government Training Institute is committed to those responsible for our national security, the safety of our citizens and the future of our great nation. Through the most intense and realistic training, thorough and comprehensive research, and honest and ethical consulting, we prepare our country's military, law enforcement and first responders to face all challenges with knowledge and confidence," said Bolin.

"Government Training Institute has been an asset to our regional community," said Danny Black, President of Southern Carolina Alliance, the regional economic development organization that recruited Government Training Institute to South Carolina. "For almost a decade, they have brought thousands of America's finest to our region for training. The company's economic impact on our community has been positive, and we welcome their growth. Our organization looks forward to working with GTI for many years to come."

"GTI has been successful because we have some of the most experienced and highly skilled instructors in the country, offering state-of-the-art instruction and cutting-edge training protocol in the world," added Bolin. "I look forward to partnering my business experience and vision with our tactical experts to expand GTI's array of training, which contains a cooperative curriculum base and ongoing research from our staff with 400 years of operational military and law enforcement experience."

"We are delighted that Government Training Institute has chosen to grow their operations in Barnwell County," said Barnwell Economic Development Commission Chairman Tommy Boyleston. "We are proud to have this fine company, training some of our country's greatest heroes and patriots, right here in our community."

"Barnwell County welcomed GTI with open arms when they first located in the region, and we will continue to create the best business and community environments we can to attract companies like this," said Barnwell County Council Chairman David Kenner. "We will assist GTI in every way that we can to help them continue their success."

A businessman from Holly Hill, South Carolina, GTI's new owner and chief executive officer, Von Bolin, has successfully operated small businesses in the region since 2001. He continues to be successful in the surplus equipment business providing effective options to government and commercial operations for disposal of excess assets.

About GTI:

Established in 2003, Government Training Institute located their advanced tactical training facility and headquarters in South Carolina in 2008, offering law enforcement, first responder, and paramilitary training in courses to organizations from around the world. The cadre of the Government Training Institute is comprised of tactical leaders from a diverse background of military and law enforcement fields. This multi-talented group of instructors has delivered and designed numerous military manuals and specific course curricula for state, local and federal agencies. Combined together, with a theoretical and research-based initiative, GTI delivers sound, tested, operational experience and course development. For more information, visit the website: www.gtitraining.org.



Training exercises at GTI's training facility in Barnwell, South Carolina

— SC Promise Zone Update —

National Leaders Provide Critical Input on Promise Zone

A dozen leading thinkers and analysts from across the South met in South Carolina in late January to learn about the S.C. Lowcountry Promise Zone and make suggestions to broaden the impact of its collaborative efforts to reduce poverty.

“The ThinkBIG conference was an important step in our planning process in realizing our Promise Zone goals,” said Danny Black, president and CEO of SouthernCarolina Alliance, the lead organization of the Promise Zone. “We were fortunate to have guidance from and discussion with experts from around the country in rural economic and community development, who joined us to share fresh ideas and innovative approaches to our challenges.”

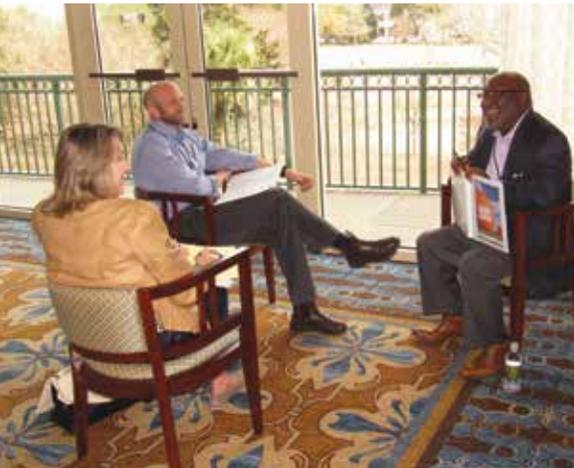
SouthernCarolina Alliance worked with the Center for a Better South, a Charleston think-tank and Promise Zone coordinator, to provide information and lead discussion with participants of the conference, which was made possible due to

generous funding by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

“Anytime you get a bunch of smart people together who are focusing on one project, good things happen,” said Center President Andy Brack. “The ThinkBIG conference provided an opportunity for our South Carolina effort to get new ideas and reactions about our transformational plans to move our region forward.”

On Saturday, participants toured the Promise Zone region, including stops in Bamberg, S.C., at Voorhees College and in Allendale, S.C., at the University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie campus. On Sunday, participants discussed strategic efforts and made suggestions about strengthening a work plan being developed for the 40 partner and supporting organizations involved with the Promise Zone.

For more information, visit www.SCPromiseZone.org



Participants in the ThinkBIG conference included:

- Bill Bynum, CEO, Hope Enterprise Corp./Hope Credit Union, Jackson, Miss.
- Harvey Galloway, executive director, BlueCross BlueShield SC Foundation, Columbia, S.C.
- Lavastian Glenn, network officer, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Winston-Salem, N.C.
 - Susan Glisson, executive director of The Winter Institute, Oxford, Miss.
- Conaway Haskins, executive director, Virginia Community Economic Network, Blacksburg, Va.
 - Beverly Karns, managing director, Capitol Peak Asset Management, Denver, Colo.
- Justin Maxson, executive director, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Winston-Salem, N.C.
 - Bill Milliken, founder Communities in Schools, Alexandria, Va.
 - Donald Phoenix, regional vice president, NeighborWorks America, Atlanta, Ga.
 - Jessica DeLoach Sabin, executive director, Arkansans for the Arts, Little Rock, Ark.
- Ark. Rep. Warwick Sabin, executive director Arkansas Regional Innovative Hub, Little Rock, Ark.
 - Charles Tucker, assistant director, The Winter Institute, Oxford, Miss.

The South Carolina Lowcountry Promise Zone, a project led by the SouthernCarolina Alliance, seeks to catalyze efforts in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties to boost the quality of life and revitalize rural communities.

Promise Zone Unveils Strategic Action Plan

A broad, long-term strategic action plan for the six-county S.C. Promise Zone envisions a collaborative effort to provide omnipresent regional high-speed Internet access, develop a shovel-ready mega-site for jobs, build a sustainability culture, and reshape public education and health care.

“This new plan is the fruit of a lot of hard work by hundreds of people throughout our six-county region,” said Danny Black, president and CEO of the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, the lead organization of the Promise Zone. “We’ve identified game-changing projects that will transform our region if we continue to work together to use the blessings offered by the Promise Zone. By focusing on the goals of this plan, we can reduce poverty by creating more jobs, improving education, reducing crime and building more opportunities for our citizens.”

The Promise Zone designation allows the 40-plus partners and supporting organizations involved with the program to get preferential consideration in winning federal funding from 14 federal agencies.

Since September, the Promise Zone has attracted \$11.6 million in federal grants and loans. At the same time, the Southern Carolina Alliance region has had \$404.9 million in capital investment, which will create at least 251 new jobs.

In recent months, Promise Zone efforts led to town hall meetings in six counties involving more than 650 people, eight strategic planning sessions with scores of professionals working in the region, and meetings with top local and state officials to ensure expansive, collaborative participation was the core of the strategic planning effort.

“The depth, breadth and scope of this long-term strategic plan is impressive. A lot of hard work has gone into working together to create this plan that should guide us as we work to transform our region.”

**- Southern Carolina Alliance Chairman
Buddy Phillips of Hampton**

Long-term transformational ideas that will drive the Promise Zone process over the next few years include:

- Development of high-speed broadband Internet networks to provide access to citizens and attract business growth.
- Attracting public and private investment to develop a shovel-ready mega-site for industrial development.
- Building a sustainability culture to take advantage of regional assets, particularly in agriculture, technology, tourism and energy
- Transforming public education and health care through innovation, collaboration and hard work.

Zone partners, supporters already working on big projects

The new strategic plan also offers six near-term projects that partners and supporters are currently working. In addition to work being done to expand high-speed broadband Internet and develop a shovel-ready, industrial mega-site, four additional near-term projects include:

- Investing in a regional Forensic Lab and Training Center to focus crime-reduction efforts.
- Creating a broad Learning/Vocational Center of Excellence to serve regional education and workforce training needs.
- Building a Medical Center of Excellence to deliver accessible, high-quality medical services.
- Establishing a Technology Village and Landing Pad in a central business location as a regional technology headquarters.

The plan also includes several other “Innovation Projects” as well as goals for each of eight targeted workgroups that are expected to meet frequently to discuss how they’re working individually and collaboratively to achieve goals in their areas.

For more detail, please see the new Strategic Action Plan online at www.SCPromiseZone.org

Promise Zone Officials Visit Washington, DC

Promise Zone officials were invited to meet with the White House Domestic Policy Council and federal agencies to discuss the strategic plan, implementation and federal support of Promise Zone projects. The federal agencies included the United States Department of Agriculture, Housing & Urban Development, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Economic Development Authority, the Department of Energy, Health & Human Services, the Department of Treasury, The US Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Labor, the Federal Communication Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Universal Service Administration Company. They also met with Senator Tim Scott, Congressman Joe Wilson, and Congressman Jim Clyburn. Pictured here are Hiwot Gebremariam, Desk Officer and Program Analyst for the USDA, Dr. Ann Carmichael, Dean of USC Salkehatchie; Danny Black, President and CEO of SCA; Sandy Steele, Director of Operations for SCA; and Ed Burgess, Special Consultant to SCA.



SCA Sponsored Career Expo for High School Students

Southern Carolina Alliance co-sponsored the “Good Jobs Build Dreams Career Expo” held at USC Salkehatchie on March 11, 2016. Conducted by the SC Department of Commerce’s Lower Savannah Regional Workforce Advisor, USC Salkehatchie, and Allendale County 4-H, the job fair was attended by high school students from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Colleton Counties.

The Career Expo had more than 40 vendors attending, including representatives from military, law and public safety services; area universities and technical colleges; agricultural careers and services, advanced manufacturing, and health sciences. Among some of the vendors were local industries such as Kronotex, Masonite, Crane Merchandising, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Boeing.

For more information on careers for students, contact Joni McDaniel at jmcdaniel@sccommerce.com.



Staff from Boeing, located in Charleston, attended the Career Expo to discuss the many career opportunities in the Aerospace sector.

SRNS Donates \$50,000 to Support Technology Job Growth

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has donated \$50,000 to the Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) in support of a new, innovative program known as “Technology Villages” to attract and grow small, entrepreneurial businesses in a six-county region near SRS.

The counties that would benefit would include Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Jasper and Hampton.

“The potential economic gain for the residents of our region will be greatly enhanced once the Technology Village concept is fully implemented,” said Danny Black, SCA President and CEO. “This is why the generous financial contribution made by SRNS is so important and highly appreciated. They understand the long-term impact this program could have on those in need and want to make this vision a reality.”

The original Technology Village concept, created at Clemson University, assists community leaders in the development, training and operation of storefront businesses in small and moderate-sized communities across South Carolina by providing intellectual property, technology evaluation, product development services, seed financing, business mentorship, corporate relationships and recruiting expertise. Southern Carolina Alliance has submitted an application to bring the Technology Village program to the six-county area.

“Our primary objective at the end of the three-year award period is to have created a sustainable structure that generates innovation-based entrepreneurship that leads to economic uplift in these economically challenged counties,” said Carol Johnson, President and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

The new Technology Villages would mirror in concept the larger Technology Villages already in place throughout the rest of the state in the cities of Bluffton, Hartsville, Conway and Rock Hill, building on their success.

Over its first 18 months, the Clemson Technology Village program experienced a high degree of success, having supported the development of 32 companies.

“We need to encourage potential startup companies within our region to consider choosing the Technology Villages and have the ability to train our workforce to meet the needs of these new businesses,” said Black. “Our desire is to enable these technology-based ventures to



SRNS President & CEO Carol Johnson (center) presents a \$50,000 check to Buddy Phillips, Chairman, Southern Carolina Alliance, with U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson (right) assisting. The donation will support a program to attract entrepreneurial, technology-based companies to the six-county region.

grow and flourish, so that in time, they will leave the Technology Villages and open their fully independent businesses in nearby communities, continuing to grow in size and number,” added Black.

Clemson’s Spiro Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Institute for Economic Development, College of Business and Behavioral Science and the Office of Economic Development, through a collaborative alliance, launched the Technology Villages program in 2012, to provide startup support and services to participating community Technology Villages programs across South Carolina.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.



Jeff Martin, HR Director from Kronotex, discussed the materials used in the laminate flooring manufactured at their Barnwell facility.



Denmark Technical College provided students with hands-on demonstrations from their mechatronics course.



Crane Merchandising provided the students with bottled water, available from one of the vending machines manufactured at their Williston location.

Healthcare Job Fair Held to Assist Hospital Employees

SouthernCarolina Alliance and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments sponsored a Healthcare Job Fair on February 4 to benefit the dislocated employees of Southern Palmetto Hospital, which announced the closing of their hospital facility in Barnwell County on January 20.

According to Lower Savannah COG officials, 146 identified dislocated hospital employees were contacted to attend the healthcare job fair. Of those 146 identified, 45 dislocated workers attended the job fair to meet with the 18 companies participating in the job fair.

Each of the participating companies offered multiple job openings with hiring opportunities for a variety of occupations, including: CNAs (certified nursing assistant); registered nurses, (RNs); LPNs; PCAs; caregivers; medical coding and billing positions; case managers; kitchen service; and other positions. The companies included nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and Veterans Administration facilities.

The companies in the region that participated were: Aiken Regional Medical Center; Pruitt Health in Barnwell; Pruitt Health Hospice in Aiken; Pepper Hill in Aiken; Harbor Chase in Aiken; Amedisys of Orangeburg; Comfort Home Health Care of Orangeburg; Laurel Baye of Blackville and Williston; Corporate Staffing in Allendale; Family Health Center in Orangeburg; Longwood Plantation Homecare of Orangeburg; Allendale Hospital; Select Specialties Hospital in Augusta; The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg; Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta; Gentiva Health Services in Barnwell; ATC Healthcare Services in Augusta; and Daybreak of Aiken.

For more information on the job fair, please contact Sally Sharpe at the Lower Savannah Council of Governments at: ssharpe@lscog.org.



Aiken Regional Medical Center and Doctor's Hospital were among the 18 health related companies that attended the job fair hosted by SouthernCarolina Alliance and the Lower Savannah COG. The Healthcare Job Fair was held to benefit the dislocated employees of Southern Palmetto Hospital.

In The Spotlight:

SCA Board of Directors



Bronco Bostick

Mayor of Hardeeville

An active member of the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors since 2012, Mayor Bronco Bostick served three terms as a member of the Hardeeville City Council from 1992-2004. During that time, he served a term as the city's Mayor Pro Tem. After a short break from public service, in 2008 he ran for and was elected Mayor of Hardeeville, where he still serves.

A lifetime resident of Jasper County, Bostick was born in Ridgeland and has lived in Hardeeville for twenty-five years. He graduated from Ridgeland High School in 1974 and joined the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era. He served honorably until 1976, when he started working for U.S. Customs.

Bostick transferred to the Parris Island Fire Department and earned his college degree from USC-Beaufort and Midland College in Fire Science and Business Management. After obtaining the rank of Lieutenant in the Fire Department, he transferred to the U. S. Postal Service. During his 21 years of service there, he was promoted seven times, which was a record at the time. He ended up earning the rank of ES 20, the Superintendent of Postal Operations, retiring in 2005.

Married to Lutely Bostick, a Registered Nurse at Candler General Hospital, Bronco Bostick is the father of three children, the late Jerrell Bostick, Rodney and Torrie Bostick.

The Honorable Tom Davis

State Senator, District 46

Joining the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors in 2015, Senator Tom Davis has practiced law in Beaufort at the Law Firm of Harvey & Battey, P.A., since 1985. He has served as a board member of the Beaufort County Planning Board, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Historic Beaufort Foundation, the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority and the South Carolina States Ports Authority.

As a member of the Jasper Ocean Terminal Joint Project Office, Senator Davis led the State of South Carolina's successful negotiations with the State of Georgia in regard to the two states developing collaboratively a new port on the Savannah River in Jasper County.

From 2003 to 2008, Senator Davis served in the office of the Governor of the State of South Carolina as a Senior Policy Advisor, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff.

On November 4, 2008, Mr. Davis was elected State Senator for South Carolina Senate District 46 (Portions of Beaufort and Jasper Counties), and he serves on the following committees: Finance, Banking and Insurance, Labor, Commerce and Industry; Corrections and Penology; and Medical Affairs.

Senator Tom Davis obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University in 1982, graduating Magna Cum Laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1985, graduating with highest honors and as a member of the Order of the Coif.

Tom and his wife, Reid, reside in Beaufort, South Carolina, with their three daughters, Elizabeth (student at Clemson University), Grace and Claire.



Jason Dandridge

Palmetto Rural Telephone

As CEO of Palmetto Rural Telephone, Jason Dandridge joined the Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors in 2015. Prior to being named CEO, Jason worked with Design South Professionals, Inc., of Anderson, after graduating from Clemson University in 1994. He then joined Palmetto Rural Telephone in 1997 and had the honor of working for his father, who also served as CEO of Palmetto Rural Telephone until his father's retirement in 2008. Not long after starting at PRTC, he began attending night classes at The Citadel, and received an MBA in 2001.

Jason is active in the industry, serving on various boards and committees of the NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, Spirit Telecommunications Board of Directors, Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Board, the Colleton County Economic Alliance Board, past chair of the Colleton County March of Dimes Walk for Babies, and an active member of First Baptist Church of Walterboro.

Born and raised in Cottageville, SC, Jason is a lifelong resident of Colleton County. Married to his wife, Jean, he has two children, Rachel and Will.



Robert E. "Robbie" Connelly, Jr.



Robert E. Connelly, Jr., of Ulmer, a member of SouthernCarolina Alliance, passed away Friday, March 11, 2016 at the age of 70.

Born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Robert was the son of Mrs. Elma Lazar Connelly and the late Robert Edward Connelly, Sr.

Robert was the co-owner and operator of Connelly Farms, Farmers Grain and Supply and Lowcountry Oil Company. He was a passionate, lifelong farmer and a lifelong member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Connelly was a former member of the board of trustees of both Allendale Academy and Andrew Jackson Academy. He served on the board of directors of Allendale County Farm Bureau from 1971 until 2005 and was a member of a number of farm agency committees and boards. At Bethel Baptist Church he served as deacon, secretary of the Men's Bible Class and was a member of the Men's Ministry. He was also a member of the Great Salkehatchie Cemetery Committee.

Among other accomplishments was his recognition by Governor Nikki Haley in 2015 as Allendale County Economic Ambassador of the year and his service as county Farm Bureau president from 2005 until his death.

Mr. Connelly served on SouthernCarolina Alliance's Board of Directors for ten years (2006 – 2016) and was always an advocate for recruiting new industry, offering new jobs to the region's citizens and improving the quality of life.

The SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors and staff appreciate the dedication of these businessmen to our communities and to our organization; we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families and friends of Robert Connelley and Jim Latham, whose work here improved the quality of life for many in our region.

James William Latham



James William "Jim" Latham, a former Chairman of the SouthernCarolina Alliance Board of Directors, passed away on March 15, 2016, at the age of 68.

Jim was born June 11, 1947 in New Rochelle, New York, son of the late John Chalmers Latham and the late Mabel Corrin Cullison Latham.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland and retiring as a Commander from the United States Navy where he was a decorated war veteran, he began a new Project Manager career in Barnwell, South Carolina at Chem-Nuclear Systems (now EnergySolutions). In 1996, he became Vice President of Barnwell Operations. He was also a member of the Barnwell Rotary Club and the Barnwell Presbyterian Church.

Jim Latham continued to partner with SouthernCarolina Alliance long after his service on the board of directors and participated in SCA activities throughout the years.

SCA Welcomes New Associates to the Regional Team



Sandy Steele has joined the SouthernCarolina Alliance staff as Director of Operations.

As Director of Operations, Steele will work with the region's county developers to bring economic development projects at all stages to fruition.

Prior to joining SCA, Steele served as Director of Economic Development for Hampton County from 2009-2015. A leader in workforce development issues,

she served as Workforce Development Director for the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Area from 1999-2009. A former member of the Colleton County Development Board, Steele was named the 2007 Administrator of the Year by the S.C. International Association of Workforce Professionals and was honored as the 1997 S.C. Ambassador for Economic Development for Colleton County.

A graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and the S.C. Economic Developers School at the College of Charleston, Ms. Steele earned her degree from the University of South Carolina and is a SC Certified Economic Developer (SCCED). A former business owner, she founded and operated Software Unlimited in Walterboro from 1985-1995 and Carolina Kettles from 2003-2015. Steele has been an active member of the South Carolina Economic Development Association since 2009, currently serving on the Professional Development Committee.

Darrell P. Booker has joined SCA's regional economic development team as Senior Project Manager, and will begin working with the Alliance on March 28.

As Senior Project Manager, Booker will work directly with industrial prospects and existing industries in the region. In addition, Booker will be involved in site location evaluation and marketing and recruitment efforts.

Booker will be coming to SCA from the Orangeburg County Development Commission where he currently serves as Project Manager.

"We are delighted to have Darrell join our regional team," said SouthernCarolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black.

A graduate of South University, Booker earned a Master of Business Administration in Finance, a Bachelor of Science in Corporate Finance, and a Bachelor of Administration in Marketing from the University of South Carolina.





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SouthernCarolina Alliance
1750 Jackson Street, Suite 100
Barnwell, SC 29812



**Good Jobs Build Opportunities.
Good Jobs Build Communities.
Good Jobs Build Dreams.**

SouthernCarolina Alliance Salutes Our Industries

No matter where you work, you can thank our local industries. As the economic foundation on which our local economies are built, our industries create opportunities for service providers and retail businesses, while providing additional tax revenue to fund county services, schools and a great quality of life.

Our companies also provide unique and exciting job opportunities for our local residents. You don't have to travel far to find the high quality jobs that can build a career and make your dreams come true.

That's why SouthernCarolina Alliance continues to work closely with our industries to help them grow, while marketing the Southern Carolina region of our state to prospective companies as the best place in the world to live and work.



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