



PALMETTO POWER

PROMOTING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA
JULY/AUGUST 2008

Heinz, Monster® To Call Florence Home

Already home to world renowned companies such as Honda, QVC, Roche and a host of others, Florence County will soon welcome the operations of two more. H.J. Heinz Company and Monster Worldwide, Inc. both announced in June their intentions to locate in Florence County.

“The June we enjoyed in Florence County is a direct result of team effort,” said Joe W. King, executive director of the Florence County Economic Development Partnership. “Our Partnership and our area are well positioned to win projects such as Monster® and Heinz because of the outstanding support we get from the Florence business community through Florence County Progress, Florence County Council and our county delegation. Companies recognize that Florence is a proven location for the growth and prosperity of a very diverse mix of businesses.” King also lauded the support of the South

Carolina Department of Commerce and other economic development allies with the Heinz and Monster® projects calling their assistance “invaluable.”

Heinz plans include construction of a 225,000 square foot frozen food manufacturing facility. The project represents a \$105 million investment and is

expected to generate 350 jobs. The selection of a 49 acre site in the Pee Dee Touchstone Energy

Commerce City as the location for the new facility came after a nationwide search. According to a news release on the Heinz website, “The site in Florence County was chosen for a number of reasons, including the positive business environment and the quality and quantity of available skilled labor in the area. The support Heinz received from city, state and government officials during the location evaluation process helped in determining the final site for the facility.”



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Mark Your Calendar for Industry Appreciation Week



Designated by the South Carolina Department of Commerce, September 15-19, 2008 will serve as South Carolina Industry Appreciation Week. The week is intended to foster celebrations of South

September 15-19, 2008

Carolina's existing industry in communities across the state. This year's theme is "South Carolina: We Mean Business."

"The Department of Commerce is to be commended for establishing Industry Appreciation Week and for encouraging communities and economic development organizations around South Carolina to recognize their existing industries," said Ralph Thomas, president of the South Carolina Power Team.

"In 2007, existing industries in territories served by the electric cooperatives of South Carolina made over \$320 million worth of capital investments. These investments stimulate job growth and tangibly demonstrate a company's commitment to business success."

Official Industry Appreciation Week logos are available for use in materials developed for area celebrations. Visit the South Carolina Department of Commerce website at this link to download a logo today: <http://www.sccommerce.com/resources/conferencesevents/scindustryappreciationweek.aspx>

Harrelson Retires

After a 33 year career with Santee Cooper, South Carolina's electric and water utility, Sam Harrelson retired at the end of June. Sam was a fixture in Santee Cooper's economic development department and was active in the statewide economic development community.


"I've worked with Sam for years. He was instrumental in the preparation of numerous parks, sites and buildings for industrial occupancy both in the electric co-ops' service areas and areas served directly by Santee Cooper," said Clancy Courtney, facilities manager for the South Carolina Power Team. "Our team will miss him, and I know his colleagues at Santee Cooper will also. His friends at the South Carolina Power Team wish him well."

Harrelson was honored at a retirement celebration at Santee Cooper on June 26.

Photo courtesy of Jim Huff, Santee Cooper



Sam Harrelson



Southern Carolina Honors South Carolina Power Team



Fred Gassaway (l) of the South Carolina Power Team accepts a Regional Ambassadors Award from Danny Black (r) of Southern Carolina.

At its regional celebration event in late spring, the Southern Carolina Alliance named the South Carolina Power Team to its Regional Ambassadors Award for Planning and Development. Through its strategic planning initiative, the South Carolina Power Team funded a strategic plan for Southern Carolina's four county service region of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton counties.

"The strategic plan made possible by the South Carolina Power Team revealed opportunities and synergies that, if capitalized on, have the possibility to have a large, positive impact on the economic growth of our region," said Danny Black, Southern Carolina Alliance president and CEO. "Our board and staff have been working the plan since it was completed. In the mean time, we wanted to express our gratitude to the South Carolina Power Team."

Fred Gassaway, executive vice-president of the South Carolina Power Team, accepted the award. "The South Carolina Power Team does not fund strategic plans to win awards. We fund strategic plans because they help everyone in our state better achieve the ultimate award in economic development: a groundbreaking on a new industrial facility or expansion," said Gassaway. "That stated, we are deeply honored to accept this award from Southern Carolina Alliance and pledge that we will continue our support to them as they seek to attract and retain jobs in their region."



Starbucks Facility Spurring Additional Growth

“We are pleased to welcome Continental Terminals to the Jedburg Commerce Park and to the Berkeley Electric Cooperative family.”

E.E. “SKIP” STRICKLAND
President and CEO
Berkeley Electric Cooperative

Even before it is fully operational, Starbucks new roasting facility in Calhoun County is already spurring economic growth. Continental Terminals, Inc., a commodity storage/handling company, announced in June that it is leasing over 245,000 square feet of warehouse space in a spec building in Jedburg Commerce Park on I-26 in Berkeley County. Continental worked with the building’s owner, Johnson Development, on the lease arrangements and will use the space to store and test Starbucks coffee beans unloaded in Charleston. Tested beans will be shipped from Jedburg to the Calhoun County roasting facility. Berkeley Electric Cooperative will serve Continental Terminal’s operation which is expected to employ 18 persons initially.

“We are pleased to welcome Continental Terminals to the Jedburg Commerce Park and to the Berkeley Electric Cooperative family,” said E.E. “Skip” Strickland, President and CEO. “They are a first class operation working with a first class product. We pledge to deliver electricity and service to them that matches.”

Finnish Manufacturer Expands in Lee County

In May, Finnish based Ahlstrom Corporation announced an \$11.7 million expansion of its Lee County operations. Ahlstrom Specialty Reinforcements of Bishopville is adding cutting edge knitting and weaving machinery and anticipates adding over 50 new workers as well.

“Ahlstrom’s expansion here after only two years of operation demonstrates that they are receiving what they need from Lee County in terms of hard working, qualified employees and a pro-business environment,” said Jeff Burgess, executive director of the Lee County Economic Development Alliance. “At the same time, we are extremely thankful and proud that they call us home. We will do all we can to support them in this expansion and in their operations in the years ahead.”

The Bishopville facility makes special fiberglass used by maritime and transportation manufacturers. Its products are also used by wind energy companies.

Ahlstrom is located in the I-20 Industrial Center served by Black River Electric Cooperative. “We congratulate Ahlstrom Specialty Reinforcements on this expansion,” said Herb Leaird, CEO of Black River Electric Cooperative, Inc. “We will continue to provide them with electric service that meets their needs and customer service that exceeds them.”



South Carolina Available Building

KINGSLEY PARK | FORT MILL, SC



Intersection of I-77 & Hwy 160
15 miles south of Downtown Charlotte

- Three stories, 60,000 square feet, Silver LEED Certified
- Architectural precast and glass exterior
- Handsomely appointed entry lobby
- Large patio opening onto Stalling's Lake and scenic walking trails
- Unmatched power reliability
- Buried fiber with significant bandwidth and diversity



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Monster® will operate a customer service center in Florence. Featuring cutting edge technology, the customer service center will be able to accommodate 750 employees. "Florence is an ideal choice for us because it's a rapidly developing labor market with the talent we'll need to bring best-in-class service to our customers," stated Art O'Donnell, executive vice president, Service, Monster® in a company press release.

Heinz and Monster® are worldwide leaders in their respective industries. A producer of food products from ketchup to baby food, Heinz brands can be found in over 50 countries. It will manufacture Weight Watchers® Smart Ones® and Boston Market® frozen entrées in its new Florence facility. Monster®, with operations on the ground in Europe, Asia and North America, provides an online solution matching human talent to business needs.

"People everywhere know Heinz. People everywhere know Monster®. To have Florence County's name associated with them is tremendous, and I believe it will lead to even more economic growth for our region," said Pee Dee Electric Cooperative CEO Toy Nettles.

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