



PALMETTO

POWER

PROMOTING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA
JULY/AUGUST 2007

International Companies Choose Newberry



Newberry County's two industrial parks, both on I-26 northwest of Columbia, have attracted two new manufacturers. British company Nasmyth Group will build new facilities in the new Mid-Carolina Commerce Park at Exit #82 (see article inside about this new park). The company, operating as Nasmyth Precision Products Inc., (NPP), temporarily will occupy an existing 52,000 sq. ft. building during construction of a 40,000 sq. ft. building, the first of its planned new facilities. Schweitzer-Mauduit International, Inc., headquartered in Alpharetta, Georgia, is up fitting an existing 54,000 sq. ft. building in the 10-year-old Newberry County Industrial Park at Exit #76. Newberry Electric Cooperative will serve both facilities.

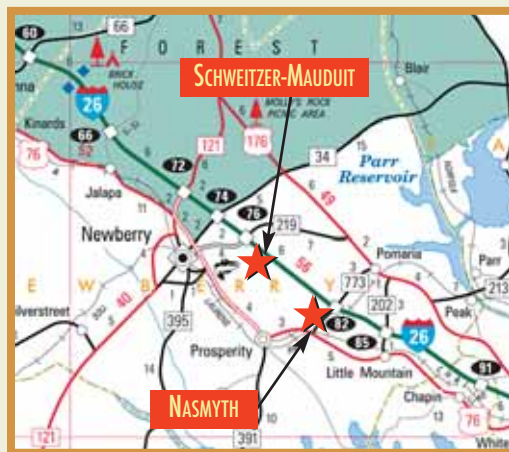
Dan Murphy, president and CEO of Newberry Electric Co-op, commented after the announcements by

the two companies, "I commend the county for their visionary leadership. Their commitment to the creation of the first industrial park on the interstate ten years

ago and now the new 400-acre Mid-Carolina Commerce Park just down the road has led to great things for this community. I am pleased to join with them in welcoming Nasmyth and Schweitzer-Mauduit to Newberry."

Nasmyth Group will invest an estimated \$15 million in building and equipping the NPP operation in Newberry County that will also serve as its North American headquarters.

Employment at NPP is expected to total nearly 100 within a few years. Its production will involve precision, multi-axis machining technology to initially manufacture aerospace electrical connectors and components used in



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International Companies Choose Newberry *—continued from page 1*

advanced technology gas turbine jet engines. The company is a tier-one supplier to the aerospace industry serving globally recognized corporations such as Rolls Royce, Airbus, Raytheon and Boeing. It is also a key supplier to the international defense, electrical, specialty automotive and medical sectors.

Mike Briggs, president of the Central South Carolina Alliance, noted at the company's announcement in Newberry, "The 'field of dreams' is true in economic development. By Newberry County establishing the new Mid-Carolina Commerce Park, a world-class company has come to town. With Central South Carolina's skilled workforce and great transportation resources, this new park puts Newberry in a great competitive position to attract advanced manufacturing."

Schweitzer-Mauduit, a diversified producer of premium specialty papers and the world's largest supplier of fine papers to the tobacco industry, has acquired a 54,000 sq. ft. building on a 10-acre site in the Newberry County Industrial Park. The company initially will invest more than \$4 million and hire up to 10 people. Depending on demand, employment could increase to a total of 50 jobs. Production of coating paper for Lower Ignition Propensity (LIP) cigarettes will be the plant's initial focus. The company was first attracted to Newberry by the availability of specialty equipment in the building. When informed of the availability of the site and building as well as the equipment, company officials took a close look at the state and the community.

"The State of South Carolina is a leader in business and economic development", said Otto Herbst, President, Schweitzer-Mauduit the Americas. "[The state] offers a collection of resources including renowned workforce training, business tax incentives, logistical advantages and a business friendly climate that suits our business approach."

The company, with business in more than 90 countries and employing 3,500 people worldwide, also produces specialty papers for a wide variety of other uses.



Welcoming the Nasmith Group to South Carolina and Newberry County are (left to right) Ralph Thomas, President, South Carolina Power Team; Dan Murphy, President & CEO, Newberry Electric Co-op; Geoff Folkes, Global Projects Executive, Nasmith Group Ltd. and Mike Briggs, President, Central SC Alliance.

Greenlight Biofuels To Produce Biodiesel in Laurens County

Greenlight Biofuels, LLC, headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia, recently announced its plans to construct an \$8.5 million biodiesel fuel plant in Laurens County near the town of Clinton. The plant, to be called “Carolina Gateway”, is scheduled to be in operation in mid- to late 2008 with a production capacity of 10 million gallons per year. It will employ a total of 15 people in a 3-shift operation. Laurens Electric Cooperative will serve the new facility.

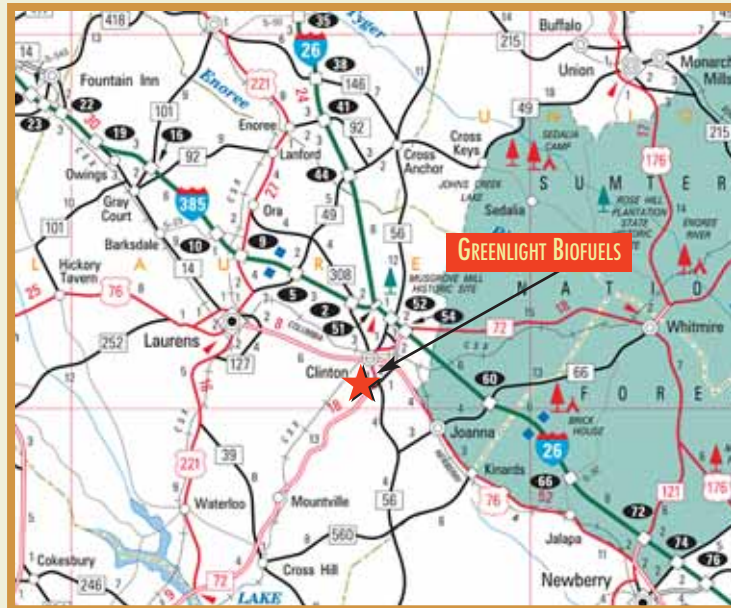


“We are proud to be associated with a company representing the next generation of energy suppliers,”

said David Wasson, Jr., president and CEO of Laurens Electric Cooperative. “I join with county officials in welcoming them to our community.”

Erik Lytikainen, vice president of Greenlight Biofuels, said, “I am happy that this project brings me back to South Carolina where I spent, and fondly remember, my time in graduate school. I have been favorably impressed with the reception we’ve received from Laurens County. The state has the reputation of a good business climate and they’ve proved it in our case. The incentives for producers of alternative energy help not only us but the whole concept of reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources.”

Ingredients for the production of biodiesel include vegetable oils, animal fats and recycled cooking oil and grease – all from domestic resources. When biodiesel and petroleum diesel are blended, the resulting biofuel can be used by any diesel application with no significant equipment modifications. Less pollution results from blends using biodiesel and other attributes contribute to less wear on engines, thereby lowering equipment maintenance costs. Home furnaces, cars, 18-wheeled trucks and many other applications are all potential markets. Greenlight Biofuels is currently seeking fuel distribution partners for the Laurens plant.



Greenlight Biofuels, LLC, founded only recently to develop, build, own and operate biodiesel facilities in North America, will soon open its first plant in Maryland. Another facility is planned in the Southeast soon after the Carolina Gateway project in Laurens. For more information about Greenlight Biofuels go to www.glbiofuels.com.

South Carolina Power Team's New Initiatives Have Statewide Impact



Ralph U. Thomas

“We want to give local officials the tools they need to win in an increasingly competitive environment.”

The South Carolina Power Team, the economic development alliance between the electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper, launched several new economic development initiatives in January, 2006. These initiatives include financial assistance for the “certification” of industrial sites; professional development scholarships for economic development personnel and financial assistance for economic development strategic planning. Since the beginning of these new initiatives, the Power Team has committed more than \$811,000 in grants to economic development agencies representing 42 counties. Local plans indicate that another \$364,000 may be requested by year’s end.

“South Carolina has always been a leader in economic development in the Southeast, and we realize the local economic development offices are the core of that success,” said Ralph Thomas, president of the South Carolina Power Team. “Through these new programs, we want to give local officials the tools they need to win in an increasingly competitive environment.”

Certification of industrial sites is the lengthy process of determining and documenting that a site is suitable for industrial use and that there are no impediments to immediate development. To date, the Power Team has helped certify sites in Calhoun, Florence, Horry, Lexington and Oconee counties and is completing studies in Aiken, Newberry, Sumter and York counties. This year, the Power Team has initiated efforts to certify sites in Anderson, Charleston, Darlington, Dorchester, Greenville, Kershaw, Pickens, Richland and Spartanburg counties.

Scholarships for economic development professionals are available for the Basic Economic Development Course, the Economic Development Institute and the South Carolina Economic Developers’ Advanced Symposium. To date, 23 scholarships have been awarded to professionals throughout the state.

The Power Team’s strategic planning program is actually a three-tiered initiative that offers to financially assist in the creation of an economic development strategic plan, a target industry study and/or an economic development marketing plan. Taking advantage of this program so far are the Central SC Alliance, the Southern Carolina Alliance and 15 individual counties - Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Georgetown, Kershaw, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Oconee, Williamsburg and York.

“These new initiatives address a number of needs expressed by the local economic development community,” said Thomas. “Since our founding nearly 20 years ago, we have consistently looked for more opportunities to assist those on the economic development front lines. The overwhelming response shows we’re on target.”

NEW
463 Acres

Mid-Carolina Commerce Park

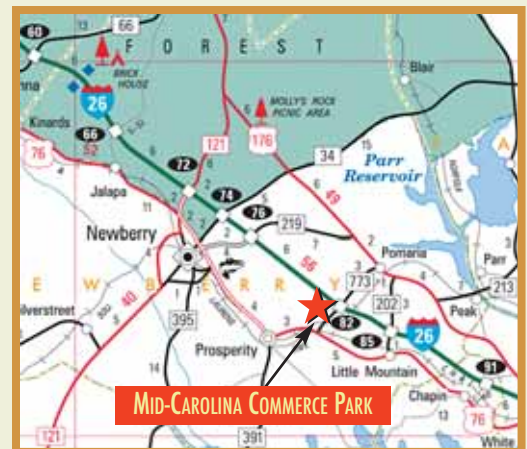
Between Greenville & Columbia MSA's



Newberry County is developing one of the newest and largest “Class A” industrial parks in South Carolina. The 463-acre Mid-Carolina Commerce Park has already attracted its first tenant before the first spade of dirt has been turned. UK-based Nasmyth Group Ltd. will begin construction on its Nasmyth Precision Products plant in the spring of 2008 on a 15-acre site in the park (see cover article).

Located at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 773 and I-26 at Exit #82, the park is only 30 minutes from downtown Columbia and less than one hour from downtown Greenville. I-20 is only 25 miles away. There is more than 4,000 feet of frontage on the interstate. The park is a “certified” industrial site, i.e. it has been analyzed to assure no major impediments to immediate development. Sites from 10 – 100 acres are available.

Newberry Electric Cooperative serves the park. Newberry County Water & Sewer Authority has an 8-inch water line and a 12-inch sewer line along the park’s frontage on SC Highway 773. The Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority has a 6-inch natural gas line also along the highway. For more information, contact Teresa Powers at Newberry County Economic Development, tpowers@newberrycounty.net or Fred Gassaway at the South Carolina Power Team, Fgassaway@SCpowerteam.com.





THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
AND SANTEE COOPER

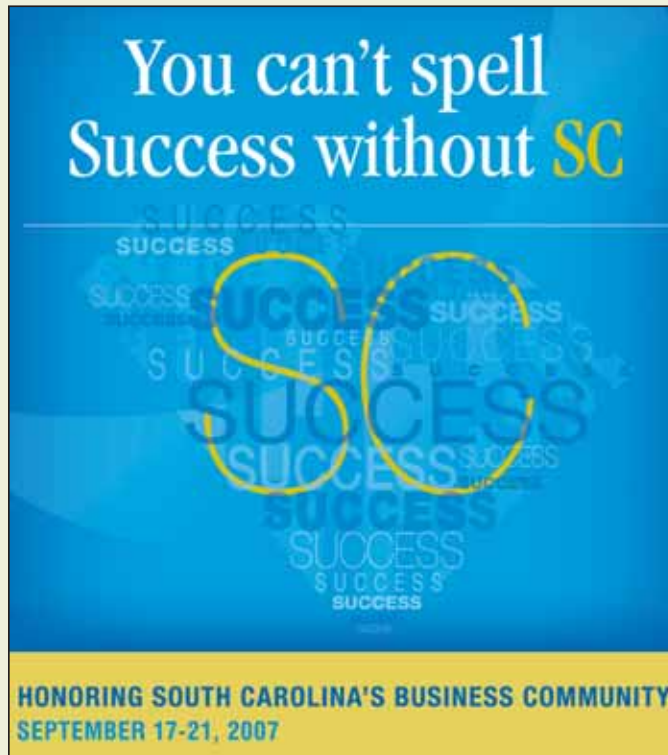
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The week of September 17, 2007 will mark the state's 17th annual observance of Industry Appreciation Week. Last year's slogan, "You Can't Spell Success Without SC" is repeated this year. Numerous community events and recognition ceremonies throughout the state will demonstrate support of business and industry. In 2006 existing industry invested \$1.73 billion – 58%

of total capital investment. This support of the tax base is fundamental to continued economic growth. Of the new industrial jobs created during the year, nearly half - 6,900 – were created by the state's existing industry. In addition to job creation and tax base expansion, business and industry contributions to civic and charitable programs and their participation in community leadership greatly enhance the quality of life for South Carolinians. For more information about the observance, go to www.sccommerce.com/IAW.html.



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