

For Immediate Release

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A.I.D. Company establishing new facility in Oconee County
\$7 million investment expected to create 75 new jobs

COLUMBIA, S.C. – August 2, 2012 – A.I.D. Company, a business of RBC Bearings Inc. and a maker of aerospace components, today announced plans to locate its new facilities in Oconee County. The \$7 million investment is expected to generate 75 new jobs over the next five years.

"We are excited about growing A.I.D. Company and pleased to locate our operations in Oconee County. South Carolina has created an excellent business environment and a skilled workforce that will help us succeed. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials," said Dr. Michael Harnett, president and CEO of RBC Bearings Inc.

A.I.D. Company manufactures control rods used in both fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. The company will relocate to the new facilities at 123 Commerce Way in Westminster, S.C., which will expand its manufacturing space from 36,000 square feet to 63,000 square feet. The company plans to begin operations in the new facility in the first quarter of 2013.

"Today's announcement is another win for one of our state's rural counties. We celebrate A.I.D. Company's decision to locate in Oconee County with a \$7 million investment and the creation of 75 new jobs. We remain committed to strengthening our state's business climate and bring job-creating investments to all areas of South Carolina," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has recruited more than \$6.8 billion in capital investment and more than 16,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Since 2006, more than \$1.2 billion in capital investment and more than 8,000 jobs in the aerospace sector have been recruited to South Carolina.

"Manufacturing continues to be a strong sector in South Carolina's economy, and the aviation and aerospace industry is an increasingly important part of manufacturing here. Today's announcement by A.I.D. Company location builds on the Palmetto State's reputation in the aerospace club," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Oconee County Council Chairman Joel Thrift said, "A.I.D. Company is the latest example of companies finding success in Oconee County. This is a testament to the confidence companies have in Oconee's workforce and our pro-business climate. We look forward to working with A.I.D. Company for many years to come in fostering their success here."

The company will begin hiring for the new positions in October and will work with readySC on employment screening.

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The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved job development credits, which will be available when hiring targets are met.

A.I.D. Company is a business of RBC Bearings Inc. For more information about the company, please visit www.rbcbearings.com.

About S.C. Department of Commerce

As South Carolina's leading economic development agency, the Department of Commerce works to recruit new businesses and help existing businesses grow. Commerce won the Gold Shovel Award and the Project of Year Award from Area Development magazine in 2012. Commerce has been part of recruiting world-class companies to South Carolina such as Boeing, Bridgestone, Continental, Monster.com, Heinz, ZF Group, BMW and Google Inc. Commerce also supports small and existing business, rural development initiatives and offers grants for community development. For more information, visit www.SCcommerce.com.

Oconee County crafts economic development plan

New Hampshire-based RKG Associates Inc. was selected to create a strategic economic development plan for Oconee County. This five-year comprehensive plan aims to recruit industry and create jobs for the county.

By Liz Segrist
lsegrist@schiznews.com
Published July 10, 2012

New Hampshire-based [RKG Associates](#) was selected to create a strategic economic development plan for Oconee County.

The [Oconee County Economic Development Commission](#) is creating a five-year comprehensive economic development strategy to recruit industry and businesses to the county. The strategic plan includes a document that will be used as a road map.

The last plan was completed in 2007. The planning process will begin later this month and run through November.

The commission expects recruitment efforts to mirror those of the region, such as automotive and aerospace, but hopes the consultants will narrow down a niche for the county.

"While we may not be able to get an OEM like BMW, maybe this will narrow down a type of automotive supplier we need to recruit or a niche industry for us based on who we are, our location and our workforce," said Richard Blackwell, the commission's executive director.

Following a lengthy request for proposal process, RKG was chosen out of 15 companies.

The consultation costs the economic development commission around \$49,000, half of which is being paid with a grant through the [S.C. Power Team](#), the economic development alliance of the electric utility Santee Cooper and the state's 20 electric cooperatives.

The five-year economic development strategy will include an assessment of current and past economic development plans; regional and county economic trends; and the county's comparative advantages and disadvantages. It will also involve creating and implementing both short- and long-term initiatives.

The plan aims to create jobs and foster a more sustainable and diversified economy. It also hopes to coordinate efforts between individuals, organizations, the private sector and local government.

Founded in 1981, RKG Associates Inc. provides private, public and institutional clients nationwide with advisory, planning and strategic consulting services related to real estate, land use and economic development.

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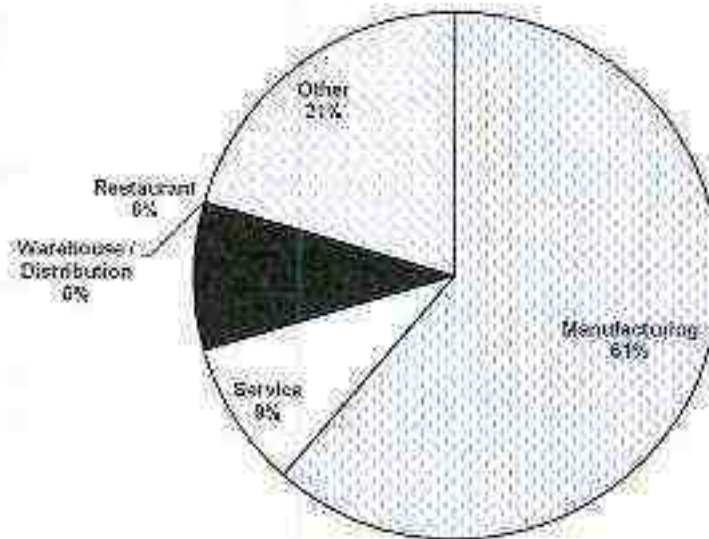
Business Development Summary July 2012



**PROJECT ACTIVITY
BREAKOUT
BY BUSINESS TYPE**

Manufacturing	27
Service	1
Retail	4
Warehouse / Distribution	0
Restaurant	0
Unknown / Other	9

Activity Breakdown By Business Type



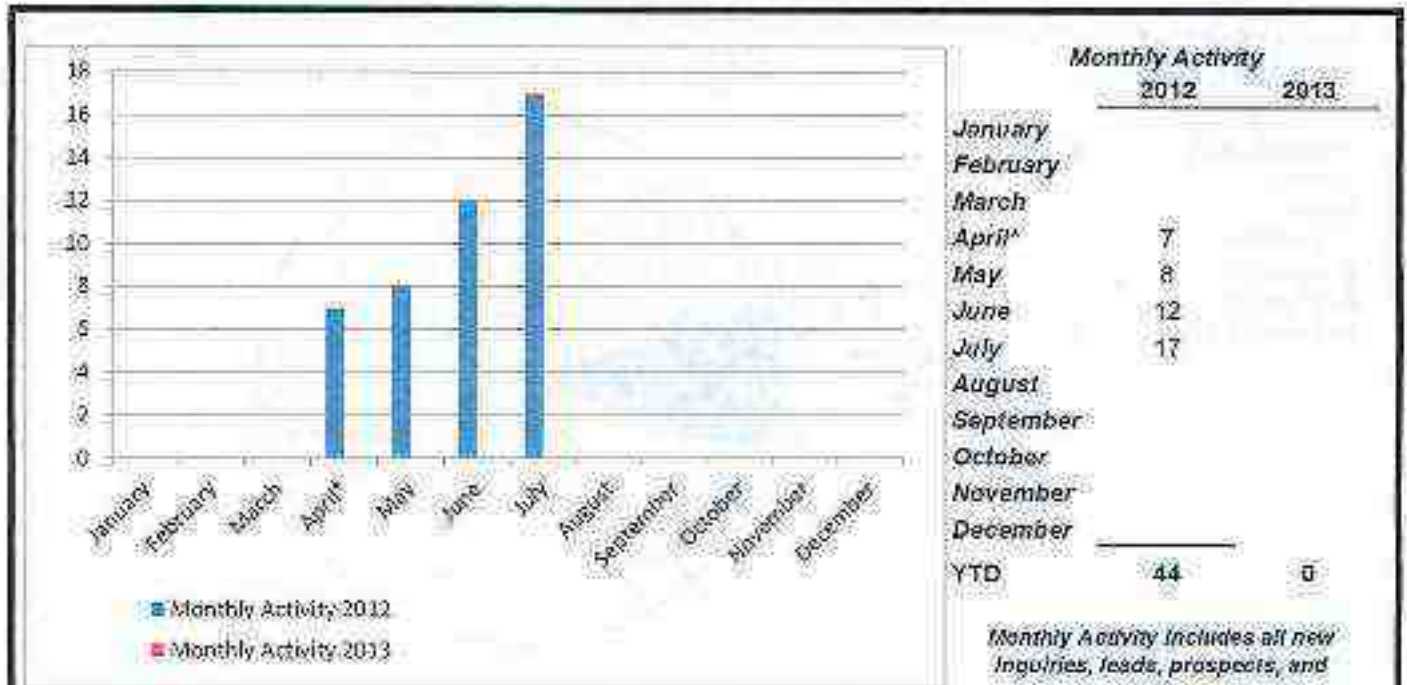
2012 SUCCESSES

	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>JOBS</u>
Project Sunshine	Automotive / Manuf.	\$25m	50
Project Cover III	Aerospace	\$7m	75
Project Star	Hotel	TBD	TBD

SIGNIFICANT EDC ACTIVITIES RECAP

1. Finalized Golden Corner Commerce Park Master Plan. Public meeting held. Awaiting Council Approval.
2. Hosted McCallum Sweeney Consulting in May 2012.
3. Echo Hills Industrial Park was invited to Phase III of the "site certification" process in July 2012.
4. County finalized deal to buy Seneca Rail Site in June 2012.
5. Began Strategic Plan in late July 2012.
6. EDC Sponsor of Upstate Energy Summit & Expo.

Business Development Summary July 2012



<u>ONGOING ACTIVITY BREAKOUT</u>	
Leads	25
Prospects	6
Projects	10

<u>PROJECT ACTIVITY BREAKOUT</u>	
New Companies	5
Existing Companies	6
National	6
International	4

<u>ACTIVITY SOURCE</u>	
Upstate SC Alliance	7
Direct Inquiry	22
Utilities	1
Broker / Realtor	4
Allies	3
SCDOC	7

