Alliance Pickens opens new headquarters today

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

LIBERTY — Alliance Pickens, which has operated in several locations during its 15 years of existence, will open its permanent home today.

The new headquarters is a 6,000-square-foot building on 2.8 acres at the Pickens County Commerce Park on Cartee Road, near the Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company. Estimated at $1 million for the building and computer equipment, the facility will also feature Wi-Fi and television screens.

There will also be a 2,500-square-foot room that Alliance Pickens will use to meet with industry prospects. Tri-County Technical College will also conduct specialized training for local industries in the room.

"In addition to having the appropriate operating space for economic development, we're also going to have a training room in the building that we are going to meld into the technical training efforts of the community," said Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens. "The office itself is being built to infuse workforce development activities and technical training opportunities as part of the economic development effort.

"It's not inconceivable to have children running JetToys in the training room or a Tri-County Technical College class with a presentation on learning robotics or industrial electronics in the building."

Alliance Pickens has most recently been located behind Peoples National Bank in Pickens. Now that it is moving to the 310-acre Pickens County Commerce Park, Alliance Pickens is joining St. Jude Medical, KeyMark, Inc., Tri-Tech USA, substations for Duke Power and Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and AT&T digital fiber switch.

Nearly 1,200 workers combined are employed at the commerce park. Farley said relocating Alliance Pickens to the park was needed due to the lack of space within its temporary locations, which forced officials to host prospects at sites including libraries, classrooms and bank boardrooms.

"It's (permanent headquarters) been a long time in coming, that's for sure," Farley said.

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Alliance Pickens will officially open its new headquarters, located in the Pickens County Commerce Park, today.