

# Boeing could give lift to

Those with current aviation industry ties may benefit most, official says

By Rudolph Bell

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The leader of Greenville County's economic development organization says he doesn't expect a lot of Boeing suppliers to land in Greenville County just because one company that hopes to do business with

the aircraft giant has come.

Jerry Howard, president of the Greenville Area Development Corp., said he figures the bigger effect of Boeing's new aircraft plant in North Charleston could be on the business of aviation companies already in Greenville County.

"Most of the short-term

opportunity in my opinion is going to reside with companies already located here who are in the business of supplying the aerospace/aviation industry," Howard said.

His organization worked for a year to recruit Carbures, a Spanish company that makes carbon structures and plans to employ at least 50 people at a new factory in the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center. Tony

Smith managed the project for GADC.

Executives for Carbures said proximity to the Boeing plant in North Charleston was one reason they picked the southern Greenville County site for their first U.S. manufacturing.

The executives said Airbus, the France-based aircraft giant, is their biggest customer in Europe, and they hope to do business with Chicago-based Boeing

## local suppliers

as well. The 787 Dreamliner that Boeing makes in North Charleston is one of the projects Carbures is focused on, they said.

The executives also cited Clemson University's advanced materials research program and South Carolina's focus on the aerospace industry as reasons for choosing SCTAC, a former Air Force base now operated as an industrial park by the city and county of Greenville.

Howard said he expects aerospace/aviation suppliers already in Greenville County to benefit at some point from the Boeing operation that is 225 miles away on interstates 385 and 26.

Greenville County companies that service the aerospace/aviation industry include Adex Machining Technologies, a metal parts maker; D3 Technologies, an aerospace engineering firm; and Cytec Industries.