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BorgWarner inks multimillion-dollar deal

Contract with Chrysler bringing at least 50 jobs to Seneca plant

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SENECA — BorgWarner announced Monday that the auto parts giant had signed a multimillion dollar contract with Chrysler to produce Torque-On-Demand and part-time transfer cases for all of Chrysler's four-wheel drive Ram trucks.

Todd Bennington, vice president of operations at BorgWarner Torq Systems in Seneca, said the massive deal would bring in no less than 50 jobs to the area.

"We are seeing rising interest among OEM's (original equipment manufacturers) for our active, on-demand systems in the full-sized pickup segment, said John Sanderson, president and general manager of BorgWarner Drivetrain Systems, Monday.

"These active systems automatically switch the vehicle from two-wheel drive to four-wheel drive and back with no driver

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FILE PHOTO

BorgWarner's Seneca location is expected to start adding an additional 50 positions this spring.

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intervention. BorgWarner is pleased to broaden its strategic partnership with Ram, providing advanced technologies engineered and made in America."

The company will supply transfer cases for the Ram 1500, 2500 and 3500.

"We should add at least 50 people to the operation here," Bennington said. "This contract is broken up into two periods. The first launch here will be in 2010, with full launch coming in 2012."

First hiring is expected to begin by this spring.

"We'll start in the second quarter. We'll start getting people here in about May, and probably look at 20 people this year, with the balance coming by 2012," he said.

It's the latest round of good news for BorgWarner, which regained its full work force in April of 2009 after at least 25 workers had been laid off. BorgWarner, which provides components to clients worldwide — including Ford, Toyota, Chrysler and General Motors, — also helped bring in jobs to Oconee County in 2007 in its last major contract to provide components for the Ford F-150.

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