Bus maker looks at Upstate for new plant

Factory that produces electric transit vehicles could employ up to 500

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An electric bus maker from Colorado is considering the Greenville area for a new factory that would employ 500 people in three years, the company's chairman said Friday.

Dale Hill, chairman, founder and chief technology officer of Proterra LLC of Golden, Colo., said the company is considering other sites as well and expects to make a decision in November.

Hill said the plant would make hybrid-electric and all-electric buses and would need assemblers, electricians, mechanics, welders and composite workers.

The 5-year-old, 30-employee Proterra now manufactures its buses in Colorado. The company wants to put the new plant in the East because that is where most of its business and vendors are, Hill said.

He said South Carolina is aggressive in recruiting transportation businesses, and the Greenville/Spartanburg area has a work force familiar with the automotive industry as well as a host of component makers.

Hill said Proterra is getting orders from around the nation for a battery-

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Company provided

Proterra, a maker of electric buses, plans to open a new plant in the East, where most of its business is.