BUSINESS

Caterpillar supplier to build in SC

Company to invest millions in Anderson plant

Staff report

McLaughlin Body Co., a manufacturer of operator protection systems, will locate a new manufacturing facility in Anderson County, company and state officials said Monday.

The $22 million investment is expected to generate 250 new jobs over the next five years.

"The search for a new location was extensive and we felt South Carolina and Anderson County was the best choice for us," said John Mann, president of McLaughlin Body. "Our new location provides our company an excellent opportunity for business development in this region of the country.

"South Carolina also provides a great business environment and with the excellent training resources provided by the state, we are confident of being able to access the required skilled workforce that we need for our products."

McLaughlin Body Co., based in Moline, Ill. since 1902, will locate its new subsidiary operation in the industrial park at 5121 Old Pearman Dairy Road, pending final approval by the Anderson County Council on April 15, officials said.

The facility will manufacture operator stations and complex metal components. The location is strategically located to supply heavy-equipment manufacturers located in the southern and eastern regions of the U.S., officials said.

The manufacturing facility will be the company's first operation outside of its home state. Additionally, the company is the first supplier of the new Caterpillar facility in Georgia to locate in South Carolina.

"We understand what businesses need in order to do well, and that's why more firms like McLaughlin Body Co. are choosing to establish operations in our state. We celebrate the company's decision to invest $22 million and create 250 new jobs in Anderson," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Today's announcement is the result of Team South Carolina's efforts."

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JOHN MANN, president of McLaughlin Body

The Anderson facility should be in full operation in the first quarter of 2014, officials said. The new operation will create employment opportunities for a variety of skilled manufacturing and technical positions including engineering, robotic weld programming and welding, the officials said.

"Attracting a company of this caliber and reputation to our county was a team effort with many partners, all of whom worked together to make this day a reality," said Anderson County Councilman Tommy Dunn.

The company will phase in hiring for the new positions as it ramps up to full production with various product introductions over the next several years, officials said. The company will partner with readySC for recruitment and training for the new operation.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a Governor's Closing Fund grant for $4 million for building acquisition and approved job development credits, officials said.

McLaughlin Body Co. is a manufacturer of operator protection systems, including cab enclosures and metal components for construction, military, agriculture and other heavy-duty vehicles.

For more information, go to www.mclbody.com.