CollinsCraft Corporation to expand Oconee County operations

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — CollinsCraft Corporation is expanding its fiberglass and composite manufacturing operations in Oconee County with the construction of a new 66,000-square foot facility set for completion by mid- to late-summer.

Gov. Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Department of Commerce and Oconee County made the joint announcement Tuesday. Officials say the multi-million-dollar investment is expected to generate about 20 new jobs over the next five years assuming market conditions continue to sup-

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Construction of a 66,000-square-foot expansion of CollinsCraft Corporation, a fiberglass and composites manufacturer in Westminster, is continuing and is scheduled for completion by mid- to late-summer.

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EXPAND: Project may create 20 jobs

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port growth.

"CollinsCraft's multimillion dollar investment, expansion and job growth is another South Carolina success story that we're going to celebrate," said Gov. Haley in a prepared statement.

Ken Collins, an Oconee County native who has owned CollinsCraft Corporation for more than 30 years, said the expansion represents "a big step for our company."

"Oconee County offers us an excellent business environment and a ready and available work force," Collins said.

Collins points out that few people realize the huge costs associated with expansion of a small business.

"Not only do you have the facility construction costs, but the investment in creating new jobs is tremendous," he said. "Just one job created in this type industry involves in excess of one million dollars in that job creation if all costs are considered."

But Collins is a man of deep faith, adding that his company was founded on the same biblical principles the nation was founded on.

"I believe in a strong work ethic and going the extra mile to provide superior products, strong customer support and a safe employee work environment," Collins said. "The employees I have show an excellent work ethic, caring for each other and their needs, both spiritually and physically."

Collins thanked state Sen. Thomas Alexander, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Oconee County Council and "numerous other folks in the community" for the support he received.

Oconee County Council Chairman Joel Thrift said he has "no doubt" that Collins will make his new operation successful.

"He cares about his customers, his employees and the citizens of this state," Thrift said. "We thank him for what he is doing in Oconee County."

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