

Dutchland Plastics starts up in Greenville

Family-owned company looking for workers as it ramps up production

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Dutchland Plastics, a Wisconsin-based company, has launched operations in the old Continental Southern Industries facility in Greenville.

The family-owned company, which does plastic molding, purchased the assets of Continental Southern in late January and production is now underway with six full-time employees on the floor and three in the office, said spokeswoman Lindee Claerbout.

Plans are to hire 15 additional people immediately and about 25 in the first year. Dutchland held a job fair last week and is hiring its initial 15 employees from that group, she said.

The company needs operators and maintenance technicians as well as assembly, design, quality control and administrative workers.

Resumes can be sent to mdehaai@dutchlandplastics.com.

Experience is helpful but not necessary.

ReadySC is providing specialized training assistance for the work force.

Claerbout said wages and benefits are competitive with other industries. Also, the facility will not operate on Sunday.

"We're looking for people to help us grow in the Southeast," she said.

Mike DeHaai, Dutchland's vice president of operations, said that the company's new location in South Carolina is expected "to allow us to significantly grow in sales, profitability and service delivery to our customers."

"The Upstate is a hub

for top manufacturing talent and will provide an excellent home for our growing business," he said.

Claerbout said Greenville's strong transportation infrastructure and the assets available from Continental Southern also were attractive.

Dutchland is at 401 Furman Hall Road.

The facility has more than 74,000 square feet of manufacturing, assembly, design, quality support, marketing, sales and administrative space.

"At Dutchland, we have molded our reputation for customer service," said Carl Claerbout, chief executive officer and co-owner. He said the company's Southeastern presence along with its customer service and specialized equipment will be "a powerful benefit" to customers.

Oostburg-based Dutchland Plastics, the parent of Dutchland Plastics Southeast LLC, was established in 1967 and is ISO 9001-certified. The company provides rotational and blow molded plastic products to a range of industries, including the lawn and garden, food and beverage, chemical storage, recreational, military and consumer markets.

In 2011, South Carolina recruited more than \$4.7 billion in investment in the manufacturing sector. That will create more than 13,000 new jobs over the next several years.

"Manufacturing was our top sector last year, and with announcements like this one by Dutchland Plastics, the sector continues to grow and create jobs," said Bobby Hitt, state secretary of commerce.