Electric carmaker considers coming here

Korean company impressed with what ICAR has to offer

By Rudolph Bell
STAFF WRITER
dbell@greenvillenews.com

An electric car maker from South Korea says Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research is one reason it's considering the Upstate as a possible location for its planned North American headquarters and a research and development center.

CT&T Co. Ltd. of Seoul should announce its decision within 30 days, said Curt Westlake, senior marketing director for the company's U.S. organization.

"The whole ICAR facility is one of the strong suits of an Upstate location," he said.

CT&T is also considering sites in Georgia for the headquarters and research and design center, Westlake said.

He said the Upstate could also land one of about 10 assembly and sales sites that CT&T plans as part of its strategy for expanding in the U.S. market.

Each site will assemble, distribute and sell electric cars and employ between 100 and 200 people, not counting retail employees, Westlake said. One of the sites will also make aluminum frames for electric cars and have between 200 and 250 non-retail employees, he said.

So far, CT&T has announced only one U.S. location — Riverside, Calif. — which is getting one of the assembly and sales sites, although not the one that will make aluminum frames.



CT&C Co.

Korean CT&C Co. is looking at Greenville as a possible assembly site for its e Zone electric car.

Altogether, CT&T plans to have 2,600 U.S. em-

See ELECTRIC on page 2B

ELECTRIC

FROM PAGE 1B

ployees over the next five years.

The company is planning to put its most significant U.S. operations — the North American headquarters, research and development center and the assembly and sales site that will make aluminum frames — in the Southeast, Westlake said.

One reason is because the number of luxury real estate communities in the Southeast. Such communities are a key consumer market for CT&T's c Zone car, Westlake said.

In South Carolina, CT&T is considering sites in the Lowcountry as well as the Upstate, he said.

The company plans to announce a joint venture with a South Carolina company within days, Westlake said Thursday. He said the joint venture will operate the assembly and sales site that will manufacture the aluminum frames.

CT&T wants "significant incentives" from local and state governments in exchange for new jobs and facilities, Westlake said.

CT&T says its e Zone electric car carries two passengers, has a top speed of 40 miles per hour and can go 80 miles on a single charge.

It costs between $12,000 and $17,000 to buy and $7 a month to operate, Westlake said.

CT&T, which also makes golf carts, already manufactures products in Korea and China.