

Electric charging station coming to Oconee

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SENECA — The same company that installed South Carolina's first charging station for electric vehicles will be flipping the switch on Oconee's first such station next week.

Thurso Power Systems is a Greenville-based startup company, which set out in September to strategically place charging stations across the state so one could drive across South Carolina in an electric vehicle. It will have a station up and running on Dec. 28 at the Spinx station on

Sandifer Boulevard.

The state's first such station was unveiled in September in Greenville.

"We looked at a couple different things. What we're looking for is ability to go from one end of the state to the other and confidently get a charge," said Brian Edens, president of Thurso.

The Spinx in Seneca is the northwesternmost Spinx station in the state and will join locations in Greenville, Columbia, Moncks Corner and Spartanburg as electric charging sites. Seneca's short distance to Clemson University made it an ideal

spot, as well.

"Another thing that we were looking at is proximity to colleges and universities, because students and professors are the first demographics that gravitate toward electric vehicles now," Edens said.

The charging station will have two ports to serve the two different classes of electric vehicles being manufactured, including the Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf, two of the most hyped electric cars hitting the market in the 2011 class.

The charging station will also allow for bidirectional communication between the onboard computer in

the electric cars and the station itself and will have Internet accessibility so that electric cars' computers and smart phones will be able to use applications to locate it as a site for electric charging.

"Another thing it allows for is you can look at usage data, and there are a bunch of calculations on how much greenhouse reductions are being done," Edens said.

He added that his company is looking at future projects with Clemson University that will bring more stations to the area.

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