BUSINESS

GE to expand in Greenville

Investment in test facility won't bring additional jobs here

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STAFF WRITERS

GE said it is expanding the capabilities of its advanced gas turbine test facility in Greenville, but the move won't involve any new jobs.

Located in GE's gas turbine manufacturing plant, the test facility will offer the capability for full-scale validation of its next generation gas turbines, heavy-duty compressors and gas turbine systems, company officials said.

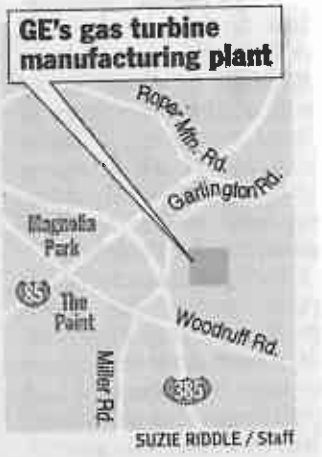
The expanded capabilities will bring GE's investment in the Greenville facility to approximately $170 million, the officials said.

"Our newly expanded test facility in Greenville will help enable thorough full-scale validation of heavy duty gas turbines at the factory site," said Paul Browning, vice president of thermal products for GE Power & Water. "We'll be able to validate a complete gas turbine system, duplicating conditions our customers experience at a power plant during operation."

Mark Reilly, spokesman at GE's local complex, said the work began in October of last year and much of it is already done.

"This is really just an investment in additional test capabilities for this facility," he said.

GE officials said the facility will provide a controlled environment with additional instrumentation, enabling the company to acquire more data during validation testi



as opposed to a traditional field-validation approach.

Testing of a new gas turbine prior to shipment reduces construction and commissioning cycle times at new power plant sites because the need for field testing is greatly decreased, GE officials said.

Initially developed for the validation of GE's recently upgraded Frame 7FA gas turbines, the facility will support long-term development and testing of a full range of GE 50 Hz and 60 Hz compressors and gas turbines. GE offi-