

GSP remodeling project to create local jobs

By Jenny Munro

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Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport commissioners selected Skanska/Moss/Roebuck as the general contractor of the \$100 million terminal renovation and expansion project, subject to successful completion of fee negotiations.

If selected, the team expects that between 75 and

85 percent of the subcontracting work would be done by local businesses, said Kevin Howell, GSP vice president and chief operations officer.

"That is real big dollars," he said. "We have a very strong contractor base in the Upstate." Although most Upstate firms are small, projects could be broken in smaller packages to allow more local involvement.

"Every local job is important," said GSP Commissioner Bill Barnet, but the commission also needs to ensure the project is cost-efficient.

The only areas where the Upstate is lacking include baggage handling systems, curtain walls for natural lighting and escalator/elevator installation, he said.

If negotiations can't be completed with Skanska/

Moss/Roebuck, the airport will turn to the second-ranked firm, Austin/Shelco, and finally the third-ranked, Yeargin/Hunt/US&S.

The staff still has to come before the commission with plans. Final schematic plans probably will be available in November, and other decisions could be made in March.

If commissioners approve the project, major

construction probably will begin in the fall of 2012, board President Dave Edwards said.

Also, commissioners approved the purchase of eight passenger boarding bridges to replace those installed in a 1989 renovation project. The cost of the new bridges from ThyssenKrupp Airport Systems will be about \$3 million, plus a contingency fund of about \$338,000.