Greenville firm lands work for Boeing

Project means 1,000 construction jobs at one time, manager says

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Greenville-based Global Performance LLC has been hired to help The Boeing Co. manage the design and construction of a new aircraft assembly plant in North Charleston.

Global Performance, founded in Greenville a decade ago by former Fluor Corp. executives, has managed the construction of numerous automotive plants, but the Boeing job marks its first foray into the aviation industry, said Dennis Braasch, president.

"This is a hugely important project to our company because it gets us in a different market, and it introduces us to a client that we have a ton of respect for," Braasch said from Lebanon, where he was on a business trip.

Boeing has pledged to hire at least 3,800 workers to assemble its 787 Dreamliner passenger jet at the 1.1 million-square-foot, 120-foot-tall factory. An official groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday in North Charleston.

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Bill Bryant, operations manager for Global Performance, said the huge construction job should employ 1,000 workers at one time during its peak and as many as 2,000 to 3,000 workers off and on over the life of the project.

The workers should come mostly from South Carolina, "certainly with some opportunities for people living in the Upstate," Bryant said.

Among the skilled tradesmen who will be needed, Bryant said, are electricians, pipefitters, sheet metal workers, carpenters, millwrights, masons, plumbers and concrete workers.

Braasch and three other former Fluor Corp. executives founded Global Performance in Greenville more than a decade ago. The company has been part of Mustang Engineering LP of Houston since 2006.

Global Performance's previous work includes managing or helping to manage construction of two Honda assembly plants and an engine plant in Alabama, a Honda assembly plant in Indiana and a Kia assembly plant in Georgia.

Global Performance also managed construction of the $750 million, 1.5 million-square-foot expansion of BMW Manufacturing Co. that is nearing completion near Greer.

For the design and construction work itself, Boeing has hired a joint venture of BE&K Building Group of Charlotte, Turner Construction Co. of New York and BRPH of Melbourne, Fla. BE&K's Greenville office will be headquarters for the work.