

BUSINESS

Group looks at new industries

Upstate Alliance says study could suggest different businesses to recruit

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The Upstate Alliance could start pushing to recruit companies in the nuclear power or medical device fields, depending on the outcome of a new study.

The regional economic

development organization with headquarters in Greenville is asking consultants which industries it should target for recruitment.

Hal Johnson, Alliance president, said he didn't want to speculate about what the consultants might recommend, but he said it's possible they'd ad-

vised targeting the nuclear or medical device industries, or a subset of advanced materials, such as carbon fibers or nonwoven fabric.

"We're going into this as if we've got a clean slate, and we're looking five years down the road," Johnson said.

He said the Alliance's foundation is covering the cost of the \$100,000 study, along with economic development organizations

associated with Duke Energy and Santee Cooper and its electric cooperative customers.

Consultants hired to conduct the research are McCallum Sweeney Consulting of Greenville and Avalanche Consulting and Greyhill Advisors of Austin, Texas.

McCallum Sweeney's work will include on-site evaluations of recruiting technique and available sites for new business in

for area

the 10 counties and five municipalities that are Alliance members.

A different consultant, Market Street Services of Atlanta, included a list of target industries as part of a \$98,000 strategic plan it developed for the Alliance and released publicly in September.

But Johnson said those target industries were "suggestions" and Market Street Services recommended further research.