

Interest shown in county's shell building

7 companies have reviewed specs of the building in the past 2 weeks

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WALHALLA — Seven companies, the largest of which would stake a \$25 million investment and another that would create 120 jobs, are taking a peek at Oconee County's shell building.

During an Economic Development Commission meeting Friday, Director Jim Alexander told the board that several companies within the past two weeks started reviewing specifications of the spec building in Westminster, as well as other area properties, as potential sites for their businesses.

The largest investment mentioned is the Sunshine project, which would involve \$25 million and create 50 jobs.

Other projects include the Michigan project at about \$12 million and 50 jobs; the Lift S project at about \$5.5 million and 50 jobs; Special K project at \$11.5 million and up to 120

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jobs; the Ciao project at \$14 million investment and about 70 jobs; and two other projects that are checking into the area, but haven't released their possible investment numbers.

Alexander said he cannot release the names and details of the negotiations until agreements are finalized. However, he did say most of the companies need more than 50,000 square feet to operate, and about 85 percent of the businesses are looking for shell buildings.

IN OTHER NEWS

Alexander said the EDC plans to receive a strategic planning grant that will pay 50 percent or \$25,000 to update the EDC's plan. The last plan

OCONEE COUNTY SHELL BUILDING

50,000 square feet,
expandable to 150,000
square feet
**32-foot interior clear-
ance**
50-by-50 foot bays
**3 loading docks and 1
drive-in door**
**Price negotiable based
on investment and job
creation numbers**

completed was in 2007 and cost \$44,000.

"This will show what the EDC should be responsible for," Alexander said.

The Economic Development Commission's next meeting is at 9 a.m. March 16 at the office in Walhalla.

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