

# Danish company picks Pickens



Ray Farley of Alliance Pickens, left, hands Stig Laursen, CEO of KP Components, a can of peas as KP announces a new plant in Easley. HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

## KP Components to set up in Easley

CEO says manufacturer plans to create more than 50 jobs eventually

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**PICKENS** — A Denmark-based company will establish its new North American headquarters and manufacturing plant in Pickens County with an investment of more than \$10 million and the creation of more than 50 jobs over the next five years.

KP Components Inc., which produces hydraulic components used in farm equipment, heavy equipment and wind power turbines, will locate in an existing building on Pelzer Highway, Easley, a company official said Tuesday.

CEO Stig Laursen said it will be the company's first facility in North America.

"It's going to directly impact over 50 Pickens County families who are going to be availed the opportunity to work for a very good company and make a very good wage," said Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens, the county's economic development arm.

The news comes after other announcements of new companies locating in Pickens County, including one last week and one in June, Farley said.

Laursen said his firm also looked at locations in Kansas and Poland.

Pickens County was a good fit with the firm's existing U.S. customers and was also attractive because of the business environment and education resources, such as Tri-County Technical College and the Pickens County Career & Technology Center, Laursen said.

He said the area has "the right skills" because the company does complex work with CNC machining and robotics.

Pickens County Council Chairwoman Jennifer Willis said the announcement means "highly skilled, high-paying jobs" for the community.

"They recognize the strengths that we have here in our community," Willis said.

"They recognize the ability that we have with our schools, with Tri-County Technical Col-

lege, with Clemson University," she said. "The resources we have in Pickens County are phenomenal, and they are here to help business succeed and thrive."

Laursen said operations and hiring should start in January. Jobs will include CNC operators, quality technicians, logistic and planning positions and administration. The pay scale could range from about \$16 to \$20 an hour, he said.

Warren Darby, project manager for global business development with the state Department of Commerce, said, "KP Components' decision to locate here in Easley not only shows that the state of South Carolina can compete nationally but also globally."

Willis said Pickens County Council has approved on two readings an ordinance authorizing a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with the company, which was referred to as Project SL. She said the ordinance needs one more reading, set for October.

For job information, contact Liberty SC Works Center, 317 Summit Drive, Liberty, at 864-843-9512 or visit [www.sconestop.org](http://www.sconestop.org).