Kemet lands DOE contract

110 new jobs created to produce electric component for hybrid cars

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Kemet Corp., a Simpsonville-based electronic-components maker, said Tuesday it had signed a $31.7 million contract with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory as part of a previously announced federal stimulus grant.

Company officials said the contract is based on the $15.1 million grant announced last August under the Electric Drive Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, plus a $16.6 million matching investment by Kemet.

A DOE spokeswoman said the award was made to Kemet last week.

Kemet had been working with the DOE on the details of the contract since the original announcement.

Company officials said the contract will enable the company to produce film and aluminum electrolytic capacitors within the United States to support alternative energy products and emerging green technologies such as hybrid electric vehicles.

"We are aiming to have two production lines operational by the last quarter of the current calendar year with an additional two lines coming on board by the end of 2011 and another two by the end of 2012," said Johnny Boan, Kemet's senior director of business development and the project lead in securing this grant.

As previously reported, the additional capacity will create more than 110 new jobs in South Carolina. Hiring will start later this year, company officials said.

The National Energy Technology Laboratory, on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program, had sought applications for grants supporting the construction and production capacity increase of U.S.-based manufacturing plants to produce batteries and electric drive components.