New project to bring 30 jobs to Oconee County

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WALHALLA — Oconee County passed first reading Tuesday of an incentive package for a chemical manufacturer that will bring 30 new jobs to the county.

Project Crystal is a $1 million investment with 30 new jobs to be created, according to county administrator Scott Moulder, who said the ordinance would allow for a 30-percent special source revenue credit once the development is complete.

The ordinance approving the agreement was voted on in title only at the meeting, but a cost/benefit analysis of the project will be provided at future readings.

The agenda for the meeting states the Oconee Economic Alliance, on behalf of the county, has worked with the company's leadership to win the capital investment. The ordinance would put into place the agreed-upon infrastructure tax credit between the county and the company.

Oconee Economic Alliance executive director Richard Blackwell told The Journal he could not elaborate on the project other than to say it is a "young, exciting firm establishing roots here that has high growth potential based on their technology."

Blackwell said he could not say where the project would take place, but it is "a good reuse of an existing building."

According to Blackwell's report at a May 18 OEA board meeting, Project Crystal was formerly called Project Cane.

His report said Project Crystal is an S Corporation — corporations that elect to pass corporate income, losses, deductions and credits through to their shareholders for federal tax purposes — that will locate a chemical manufacturing facility in Oconee County.

The company would invest $1,020,000 in the project, of which $640,000 will be in real property (land and building) and $380,000 will be in tangible personal property (machinery and equipment).

According to Blackwell, Project Crystal will create 31 new jobs over five years.

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