Pickens County lands another industrial development

BY GREG OLIVER
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PICKENS — KP Components Inc., a precision computer numeric control machining company that began in 1969 in Denmark, has selected Pickens County to house its first North American facility and will ultimately generate more than 50 new jobs.

During Tuesday's economic development announcement in Pickens County Council chambers, Stig Laursen, the company's chief executive officer, said the business will officially open in Easley in January 2012. The company will be located in a 35,000-square foot existing building on Pelzer Highway, producing hydraulic components used in farm equipment, heavy equipment and wind power turbines.

"The new facility will enable us to be more competitive with China and provide a local facility to show our U.S. customers," Laursen said. "The establishment of our U.S. presence is within our company's growth strategy and, quite to the contrary, will not cost jobs in Denmark."



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Stig Laursen, chief executive officer of KP Components Inc., points to machinery used by the company that was founded in Denmark in 1969 as he converses with Alliance Pickens Executive Director Ray Farley. Laursen announced plans Tuesday to locate the company's first North American facility in Easley and that it is scheduled to open in January 2012.

Laursen said the move, with an investment of more than $10 million, would initially result in 20 additional jobs. Hiring will gradually increase and Laursen hopes to reach the goal of 50 plus employees within the next five years.

Alliance Pickens Executive Director Ray Farley said the match between KP Components Inc. and Pickens County is perfect now and in the future.

"Our students are being trained to solve problems, to think analytically and to solve technical issues," Farley said. "That's a product of our Pickens K through 12 public schools and technical education."

Pickens County Council Chairwoman Jennifer Willis agrees that the county's work force and its primary, secondary and technical education components and business friendly climate all will enable KP "to develop a thriving business in Easley."

"We will do whatever we can to support you but, mostly, we'll stay out of your way," Willis said.

While South Carolina provided training funds and job development credits, which will be available if hiring targets are met, Pickens County provided a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement for the new capital investment.

KP Components Inc. was founded by Krogh Pedersen and is co-owned today by his son Martin Krogh Pedersen, a capital fund and the management. The company will begin hiring for the new positions for its Easley facility later this fall. Anyone interested in job opportunities should contact the Liberty SC Works Center at (864) 843-9512 or at www.sconestop.org.

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