Pickens County welcomes

Calif.-based company's investment expected to generate 45 new jobs

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — Allegro Industries, founded in 1987 and based in Garden Grove, Calif., will call Pickens County home with an invest of $4.53 million, which is expected to generate 45 new jobs, the company announced Monday.

The manufacturing company produces industrial safety products, including respirators, respirator accessories and ventilator products for confined spaces. It will become the sixth company to construct a facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park.

"We will provide an excellent work environment for employees with clean, safe equipment and excellent pay and benefits," said Allegro Industries President Tom Johnston, who co-owns the company with Tony Ferroni. "We hope we will become a very integral part of South Carolina and Pickens County."

Johnston said the new location would allow Allegro to increase its production capacity, as well as give it a presence in the Southeast. He cited Pickens County's excellent business environment, strong workforce and exceptional market access as key factors in the decision.

"With this move, we will be able to be more responsive to our East Coast customers," Johnston said.

Alliance Pickens Chairman Joel Ledbetter said the new industry will augment the commerce park's other life safety specialty device manufacturers.

"Allegro Industries Inc. is a very welcome addition to our Pickens County

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Allegro



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Tom Johnston, left, president and co-owner of Allegro Industries, shows Pickens County State Sen. Larry Martin some of the company's safety products.

ALLEGRO: Hiring will begin in the first quarter of 2011

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industrial base," he said.

The 40,000 square foot facility is expected to begin operations next year. Hiring of employees will begin in early 2011, and Workforce One-Stop in Pickens is assisting.

Ferroni said wages paid to employees will depend on the job, with manufacturing positions paying between $14 and $18 per hour and others, including engineering, paying even higher.

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