Sage to add 80 jobs in Marietta

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Sage Automotive Interiors, which recently announced plans to move its headquarters to Clemson University's ICAR, said it plans an estimated $10 million in investment at its Gayley plant, including the creation of at least 80 jobs over the next five years.

The company, which makes automotive fabric for seating, door panel surfaces and headliners, is moving about 40 employees from the Milliken & Co. campus in Spartanburg on April 30 to temporary headquarters in the Carolina First building next to the International Center for Automotive Research, said Dirk R. Pieper, the company's president and chief executive.

Sage, a portfolio company of South Carolina-based Azalea Capital, plans to move into its new facility by June 2011.

Pieper said that the company has hired new workers at the Gayley plant in Marietta and will increase its work force there from about 220 to 306 workers in the next five years. He expects 50 percent of the additional employees will be hired by the end of 2011.

If the car industry picks up faster than expected, hiring could come quicker, he said. The company's business plan for 2010 was based on about 10 million vehicles produced in the United States. However, that number appears now to 11.5 million.

The Gayley plant is among Sage's most modern manufacturing facilities, Pieper said. It produces the YES Essentials line of performance automotive fabrics. The products provide durability, stain resistance and odor elimination that consumers want, he said.

The five-year investment calls for moving in additional equipment to help Sage Automotive move more heavily into the headliner business and enhance its YES Essentials line.



KEN OSBURN / Staff

A Sage Automotive Interiors worker checks production equipment at the company's Marrietta plant.