Spec building groundbreaking nears

$1.5M project could start late this month

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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WALHALLA — Oconee County should have its new spec building at the Highway 11 Commerce Center completed and ready to show in less than six months.

An Upstate construction business based in Spartanburg County has contracted with Oconee to deliver the $1.5 million shell building by mid-February.

Jim Alexander, director of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission, said Tuesday the spec building's final inspection is scheduled for February 2011.

"The schedule assumes decent weather during much of the construction period," Alexander said.

Alexander and County Councilman Paul Corbeil were among the most vocal advocates for a spec building. They are hopeful that once the red carpet is rolled out some company will be smitten enough with the location to open for business and bring home new jobs.

Roebuck Building Co. is expected to break ground on the project late in September or early October, said Robyn Courtright, director of the Oconee County Procurement Department.

Aside from the shell building, the project includes a detention pond that serves a 19.2-acre industrial site at the Commerce Center.

Roebuck has been in business for 63 years and has an impressive list of commercial, industrial, institutional, healthcare and church projects in its portfolio.

The company posted 2008 revenues of $38.4 million.

Roebuck was selected from among 11 companies that responded to a Request for Proposals (RFP) Oconee issued in 2008.

carlos@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6685