BUSINESS

Fujifilm expansion to add 185 jobs

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Up to 185 full-time jobs are expected to follow a digital photo lab expansion inside Fujifilm's U.S. manufacturing complex in Greenwood.

Fujifilm USA Inc. and the South Carolina Department of Commerce announced Wednesday that the company's 500-acre Greenwood campus will become home to its new state-of-the-art digital print services and fulfillment operation.

Fujifilm executives said the Greenwood facilities will be modified to accommodate the expansion plans.

John Prendergast, Fujifilm vice president, printing services group, said the new lab will begin operating this fall, initially producing personal photo gifts for both retail delivery and direct mail to consumers.

"Over time, the lab will expand its digital products and services as the market continues to grow," he said.

Fujifilm USA is a marketing subsidiary of Fujifilm Corp., in Tokyo, Japan.

Fujifilm began its South Carolina manufacturing operations in 1988.

The Greenwood campus is Fujifilm's largest manufacturing operation in the country and its largest distribution center in the world.

The Greenwood complex currently manufactures digital and conventional pre-sensitized printing plates, QuickSnap one-time-use recyclable cameras, and color photographic paper.

In recent years, Fujifilm consolidated its photo processing operation to better meet the changing needs of its customers in the shift from analog to digital imaging.

"In response to the rapid growth of the personal photo products market, we're designing the new Fujifilm Greenwood lab from the outset with digital fulfillment as its primary purpose," Prendergast said.

Greenwood's "central location and proximity to raw materials will enhance efficiencies," said Shin Kataoka, president of Fujifilm Manufacturing USA, Inc., and head of operations at Greenwood.

"In addition, Fujifilm is already a well-established corporate citizen in South Carolina and has become a model of sustainability for our company globally," he said.

Greenwood County Council chairman Robbie Templeton said Fujifilm's planned expansion and new jobs are "a testament to the skilled workforce and business climate of Greenwood County that continues to foster growth and expansion."