

# State officials: Itron expansion to create 100 new jobs

BY STEVEN BRADLEY  
THE JOURNAL

COLUMBIA — Itron's \$8 million expansion of its West Union facility will lead to the creation of 100 new jobs, Gov. Henry McMaster's office and the S.C. Department of Commerce formally announced Thursday.

The announcement came two days after Oconee County Council gave final approval to an incentive package for the project, which received a fixed tax assessment ratio of 6 percent and fixed

millage for a term of 30 years as part of its fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement.

A world-leading technology and services company dedicated to the resourceful use of energy and water, Itron has been a member of the Oconee business community for more than 50 years.

"We are proud of our roots in the area, and we are glad to support economic growth in South Carolina," Itron Oconee senior operations manager Mike Higgins said in a news release.

Itron provides compre-

hensive solutions that measure, manage and analyze energy and water. The company's broad product portfolio includes electricity, gas, water and thermal energy management devices and control technologies, communications systems, software, and management and consulting services, according to a news release from the governor's office.

"Itron is an important partner to our state, and we couldn't be prouder to see them succeed in

SEE ITRON, PAGE A3

## ITRON: Jobs 'will make a real difference'

FROM PAGE A1

Oconee County," McMaster said. "With announcements like this one, we're letting the world know that South Carolina is open for business, and we can't wait to watch this great company's continued success here."

Located at 313 S. Highway 11 in West Union, Itron's Oconee County operations will be reconfigured to include manufacturing of natural gas meters.

"When a great company like Itron chooses to expand its existing operations in our state, it's yet another testament to the fact that our state is 'just right' for business," Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt said. "The 100 new jobs that this investment is creating will make a real difference in Oconee County, and we look forward to what the future has in store for Itron."

Itron officials confirmed to *The Journal* last month that the company is expanding its Oconee facility by relocating operations from a Kentucky plant that reportedly employed more than 400 workers.

County council chairwoman Edda Cammick said the county is grateful to Itron for the decision to continue investing and adding new jobs at its

West Union facility.

"For decades now, Itron has called Oconee home and continued to showcase to the world that companies in our commu-

nity will have long-term success manufacturing products for a global consumer base," she said.

sbradley@upstatetoday.com



According to state officials, Itron will add 100 new jobs when it expands its West Union facility, located at 313 S. Highway 11.