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Alliance Pickens Executive Director Ray Farley shows off one of the products that will be made at the new Safeplast plant to be built in the Pickens County Commerce Park.

PICKENS COUNTY LURES NEW MANUFACTURER

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Canadian firm Safeplast NA announced Tuesday it would build its new headquarters and manufacturing facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park near Liberty.

The company will get a construction-ready site within the park — with sewer, water and electrical service already available — from the county for \$10 under an agreement approved Tuesday by the Pickens County Council.

In exchange, Safeplast has agreed to build a \$4.3 million facility there and hire 30 employees to start operations when the new building is complete.

"They will probably start construction at the site pretty soon, with a first quarter 2018 completion date," said Ray Farley, Alliance Pickens executive director.

Owners Jerry Pawluk, Diana Pawluk and John Pawluk were officially wel-

comed by state and local officials at a midday event in the Alliance Pickens offices at the commerce park. Discussions between the county and the company began about 10 weeks ago, according to the Pawluks.

"We were running out of space at our Canadian location, so about a year ago we started looking for more space," said Safeplast President Jerry Pawluk. "Circumstance eventually brought us to South Carolina, and we have business relations here."

State Rep. Davey Hiott (R-Pickens) and County Council Chairman Roy Costner touted the deal, saying that the initial presence could very well grow over time into more jobs for more Pickens County residents.

"The more manufacturers who are world-class, like they are, the more it's going to help us attract more manufacturing to the area, promote economic development and build up that tax base," said Costner. "... It's 30 families,

a continuance of growth. That's where it starts. As their business grows, so will the county's opportunity to prosper."

"Pickens County is glad to have them ... 30 jobs may lead to 300 jobs, you never know," said Hiott.

The Ontario-based company is affiliated with Safeplast Finland.

The new 30,000-square-foot facility near Liberty will be one of two in the world that makes Safeplast plastic products to protect hydraulic lines in heavy machinery, with the other in Finland. It will also serve as Safeplast's North American headquarters.

Hiring should begin in the spring of 2018. Interested applicants should email info@safeplast.com for more information.

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