

Company creating more than 20 new jobs

PG Aerospace picks Liberty for new facility

BY JASON EVANS
THE JOURNAL

LIBERTY — A New Jersey-based manufacturer will count its very first customer among its neighbors at its new facility in Liberty.

PG Aerospace will be locating a new facility at 107 Alison St., Pickens County officials announced Tuesday afternoon.

Officials hope the new facility will create more than 20 new jobs.

PG Aerospace CEO Ana Prodan and her husband, Mitch, aren't strangers to the town. They've been visiting their first customer, Champion Aerospace in Liberty, for 22 years,

"I am thrilled that I can actually call them my neighbor," Ana Prodan said during a news confer-

ence held at the Alliance Pickens office. "We've grown close. We've got friends here already."

The company produces more than 400 different components for the aerospace and automotive industries.

Company officials began talking with Alliance Pickens two years ago, Prodan said.

As they began to consider relocating, the company hired a consulting firm that recommended Florida,

PICKENS COUNTY



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PG Aerospace CEO Ana Prodan speaks about the company's new facility in Pickens County during a news conference Tuesday at the Alliance Pickens office in Pickens.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

JOBS: 'It was South Carolina all along that we wanted'

FROM PAGE A1

North Carolina or South Carolina as the best fits for PG Aerospace.

"It was South Carolina all along that we wanted," Prodan said. "We were hoping we would end up in Liberty."

The nearby Pickens County Career and Technology Center was a factor in the Prodanis' decision.

"We are so impressed," she said. "We don't have what you have here. It's huge. What you're creating with this voc-tech school, with the career center, is second to none. You're leading the nation."

"I wish this would happen throughout the country. We need to train our youth. Not everyone wants to go to the universities. Not everyone can afford the universities."

Alliance Pickens executive director Ray Farley said the career center instills in local students technical capability "far beyond their years."

Prodan said the company will begin moving into the building in the next couple of weeks, and company officials

hope to exceed expectations.

"We have promised 22 jobs to the community," Prodan said. "My job and my husband's job is to exceed that number. We're hoping to deliver more than 22 jobs."

The company is growing, Prodan said.

"We have a new contract that we're thrilled about, and we're glad to be bringing that here," she said.

The company will start out with one shift but look to add a second sometime in 2018.

"We have to," Prodan said.

The facility will sit on a portion of a total 7.5 acres of land.

"That gives us the liberty to grow, no pun intended," Prodan said.

Those seeking information about jobs should contact Ana.Prodan@Progas-ketMFG.com.

Pickens County Council chairman Roy Costner told the Prodanis that "Liberty is one, big happy family."

"Welcome home," he said.



INSIDE

CALENDAR	A2	ENTERTAINMENT
CLASSIFIEDS	D3	LIFESTYLE
COLUMNISTS	B3	OBITUARY
COMICS	B3	OPINION