

# Company to invest \$11.1M in new Pickens County facility

BY JASON EVANS  
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**LIBERTY** — United Tool and Mold Inc. is expanding its operations and creating a 60,000-square-foot facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park.

The \$11.1 million investment is projected to create 17 additional jobs.

United Tool and Mold provides engineering and repair services for the plastic injection and blow molding industry.

“It’s a very high-tech, high-end industry,” company president Scott Phipps said after the plans were unveiled last week. “It’s what’s going to carry us into the future. Plastics is very much a part of the future.”

The company’s main office is located in Easley. Those employees will be relocated to the commerce park. The company also has a facility in Duncan.

Before the announcement, Pickens County Council members gave final approval to a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement for “Project Dairy,” the code-name given to the project. The codename was chosen to reflect Phipps’ childhood on a dairy farm in Ohio.

“The speed of technology in manufacturing today is phenomenal,” Phipps said. “It’s not what it was when I started in it, and it’s not what it was in 2009 or 2010. That’s part of why we have to build this facility ... to attract new young people, to make sure they understand manufacturing isn’t all dirty.”

Phipps said he’d considered looking outside the county to meet his company’s needs.

“Pickens County really stepped up,” Phipps said. “It was great to see the county really step up and offer what



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**As members of Pickens County Council look on, United Tool and Mold Inc. president Scott Phipps, left, and Alliance Pickens executive director Ray Farley toast with glasses of milk, a nod to Phipps’ childhood on an Ohio dairy farm. Officials announced last week the company will create a new facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park.**

they had, to be a part of the world-class industrial park that they have. We’re proud to be a part of it and where it’s going in the future.”

Phipps said he and his company are looking forward to working with area STEM programs, colleges and technical schools.

The S.C. Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a \$75,000 grant to Pickens County to help with construction costs.

“The Palmetto State is now known as an industrial powerhouse,” South Carolina Department of Commerce project manager Molly Hall said. “Since 2011, we have seen our manufacturing employment increase more than 17 percent. Much of our growth can be attributed

to existing industries like United Tool. Over the last seven years, expansions have accounted for more than half of the capital investment recruited to our state.”

With United Tool and Mold’s announcement, the Pickens County Commerce Park now has more than 1 million square feet of job-creating buildings, Farley said.

“People have a passion about Pickens County,” Costner said. “Thanks for making us a part of your team, and welcome to your new home.”

Those interested in joining the United Tool and Mold team should contact tonya.hinson@utminc.com for more information.