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Tri Tech USA to bring at least 40 new jobs to Pickens County

Will move operations from Vermont to Commerce Park

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PICKENS — For the second consecutive year, Pickens County received its own economic stimulus in time for the Christmas holidays as Tri Tech USA announced Tuesday that it will relocate its headquarters and manufacturing operations to the Commerce Park.



An artistic rendering of Tri Tech USA, scheduled to undergo construction during the first quarter of 2009 and open sometime in August.

“It’s a little bit of déjà vu,” said Alliance Pickens Executive Director Ray Farley during a news conference held in the Pickens County Council chambers.

Last year, Fluid Routing Solutions, Inc. officials announced plans to keep their facility in Easley — saving 450 current jobs as well as adding 115 new jobs



through consolidating its power steering operations in Quebec. This year, Tri Tech USA owners Joe and Linda Bacigalupo will relocate their operation in South Burlington, Vt. where they have been since establishing it 23 years ago.

Tri Tech USA owners Joe and Linda Bacigalupo discuss their decision to relocate the couple’s manufacturing business from Burlington, Vt. to the Pickens County Commerce Park. The move, which will bring 40 to 55 new jobs to the county, was announced Tuesday. Seated, from left behind the couple, are Ed Parris, chairman of Alliance Pickens; Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens; and Jack Ellenburg, representing the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

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“We are here to celebrate a Christmas gift that is being bestowed by Joe and Linda Bacigalupo,” Farley said.

Construction of the approximately 41,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to begin the first quarter of 2009 and be completed in August. Tri Tech USA, an advanced manufacturing company, will provide

40 to 55 jobs over the next five years and invest at least \$4 million in two different lines of business.

The first line of business involves the production of commercial grade mobile kitchen units for the United States military. The units will be used to feed, nourish and comfort the front line soldier in military operations worldwide. They come in various sizes, are easily transportable by helicopter, plane or truck and will serve anywhere from 90 to 600 soldiers depending upon the size of the kitchen.

“The fact that they produce a product that brings comfort to our men and women in the battlefield is something we can take comfort in,” said Ed Parris, chairman of Alliance Pickens.

Tri Tech USA’s second line of business is advanced metalworking in commercial industrial applications. The company will manufacture metal components used in a variety of industries, including automotive, aerospace, pharmaceutical, food processing and furniture.

Pickens County Council Chairman Neil Smith said manufacturers such as Tri Tech USA see something special in Pickens County and, especially, its citizens.

“We’re not talking about bailouts,” Smith said. “We’re talking about people doing good, honest work for a buck.”

State Sen. Larry Martin, of Pickens, said Tri Tech USA is “a tremendous addition” to the state as well as Pickens County.

“I think it speaks not only for our local economic development efforts, but also what the state offers as far as competitiveness and its business climate,” Martin said. “We’ve got a tremendous place to do business, and I think it speaks well for the various development opportunities we’ve put into place in recent years.”

Joe Bacigalupo said the support, quality of life and quality of workers were all factors in the couple’s decision to relocate to Pickens County.

“We can have a very positive impact with good paying jobs, and we like to think it’s a good place to work,” Bacigalupo said, adding that the manufacturing positions will pay an average wage in the \$17 per hour range.

When asked if there are plans for further expansion down the road, Linda Bacigalupo replied, “I believe so.”

Farley said the Liberty office of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission would handle job applications while ReadySC will perform employee training at Tri-County Technical College.