

The Greenville News

October 10, 2006

Pickens plant expansion adds 30 jobs Longtime manufacturer is adding 18,000 square feet to facility

By Anna Simon
CLEMSON BUREAU
asimon@greenvillenews.com

CENTRAL -- An expansion of the MST Concrete Products, Inc. plant near Central will create 30 new jobs to keep up with demand as the area grows, said Ed Martin, company president.

The longtime Pickens County manufacturer is adding 18,000 square feet of space to its existing Eighteen Mile Road production facility.

An initial investment of \$1.3 million in plant construction and equipment will enable MST to expand its manufacturing line of custom products, Martin said.

The company serves an area within a 150-mile radius of Central, including the Upstate and parts of western North Carolina and northern Georgia, Martin said.
Advertisement

"Some of our business is focused toward homebuilding and the residential market. The majority is infrastructure work for municipalities," Martin said.

The company does a lot of water, sewer and storm water drainage work for commercial, industrial and residential uses, he said.

The expansion will support 16 new jobs and as many as 30 over a three-year period, Martin said.

Hiring already has started for supervisors, technicians, plumbers, and professionals, Martin said.

Many of the new employees are expected to be former textile workers from recently closed textile mills in the surrounding area and they will be offered a variety of on-the-job training experiences as well as training programs conducted and certifications provided by the American Concrete Institute, the Department of Transportation, and the National Precast Concrete Association.

"The Pickens County community is most grateful to the Martin family for continuing their long history of investing in Pickens County," said Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens, the county's economic development office.

"Thanks to Ed Martin and his entrepreneurial spirit, 65 current employees and 16 to 30 more employees are availed of the opportunity to work in their home community of Pickens County," Farley said.

The company was founded in 1962 as Martin Septic Tank Co., and moved over the years from septic tanks to precast concrete products, including those used in sewer line construction.

For the past two decades, MST has been a leading manufacturer of precast concrete manholes, catch basins, wetwells, and utility vaults.

MST is a National Precast Concrete Association certified plant. NPCA certification indicates a commitment to invest time and resources necessary to meet the high standards demanded by the construction industry. NPCA guidelines require that procedures and products be inspected during each phase of manufacturing to ensure compliance with exacting industry requirements.