

The Greenville News

October 22, 2008

Champion to add 30 to 45 jobs to Pickens County facility

By Angelia Davis
Business Writer

Thirty to 45 new jobs are slated for Pickens County with the planned expansion of a manufacturer of aviation products.

Advertisement

Champion Aerospace LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of TransDigm Group Inc., along with the South Carolina Department of Commerce and Alliance Pickens, announced Tuesday the company will add the new jobs at its facility in Liberty.

Ray Farley, executive director of Alliance Pickens, said hiring for the new jobs, which will be assembly positions, will begin immediately. The jobs will pay in the \$16-an-hour range, he said.

The expansion is credited, in part, to "the successful teaming of Champion Aerospace management staff with local and state officials following the Sept. 26 acquisition by TransDigm of Unison Industries LLC, a subsidiary of General Electric."

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, TransDigm acquired certain assets of Unison Industries for about \$69 million in cash, a company statement said.

Bernt Iversen II, president of Champion Aerospace, said, "The combination of Slick magnetos and harnesses with Champion's spark plugs and oil filters into our Liberty plant makes us the market leader in supply of complete piston ignition systems to the general aviation industry."

Farley said TransDigm's decision to expand at its Liberty plant is "a real testament" to the Pickens County work force, which has helped the area experience "strong growth" in the specialty device sector in the past few years.

Examples of those specialty device sectors he cited, along with the ignition systems for aircraft made by Champion, are medical devices made at St. Jude Medical and the fire sprinklers and system components manufactured for a worldwide audience from Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co.