

The Greenville News

April 24, 2006

Computer software firm opts to expand in Easley

By Lindsay Edmonds

EASLEY BUREAU

ledmonds@greenvillenews.com

EASLEY -- An Easley-based computer software and technology company that plans to expand has decided to stay local.

Having outgrown its previous location, Computer Software Innovations has relocated to the old Swirl Manufacturing plant at 900 E. Main St.

The move will provide the company with more space to grow, according to Nancy Hedrick, company president.

CSI sells accounting software and networking services to public school districts and city and county governments in the Carolinas and Georgia.

The growth of businesses such as CSI is bringing needed revenue and jobs to the city on the heels of Alice Manufacturing Co.'s decision to close.

In Pickens County, 7.4 percent of the labor force was unemployed in February, which is an increase of 0.5 percent from January, according to the state Employment Security Commission.

"It is so vital to make sure that the businesses that are located in Pickens County have the tools to succeed and prosper here and stay in Pickens County," said County Council Chairwoman Jennifer Willis.

From two employees in 1989 to about 100 now, the company plans to continue adding staff to its already growing payroll. About 60 employees are currently based in the Easley office, and there is an additional 7,000 square feet for the company to grow into.

Not only is CSI looking to expand the staff in Easley, but the company also wants to take its software division to areas beyond the Southeast.

"Like most companies in our sector, we'd certainly like to have double-digit growth ongoing," said CFO David Dechant.

CSI employees were scattered throughout Easley in several different locations, which played into the decision to move to one central building. After briefly considering the option to move to another area, the company decided to remain in Easley, as most of the employees are Easley residents.

Staying true to its roots, the company believes that Easley suits its purpose. "We have no retail traffic; we don't need a location that's on (Interstate) 385 or I-85," Hedrick said. "There's no reason for us to be in a highly commercial visible area. Easley's got nice restaurants, and it's got places for our clients to stay. It offers all of those positives and you don't deal with Greenville traffic."