

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Card, RachelRachelCard@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/20/2015 3:02:37 PM
Subject: Commerce Communications: Entrepreneurship Drives a Prosperous S.C. Economy

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November 20, 2015

While industry recruitment is a critical component of our economic development strategy in the Palmetto State, the continued support and growth of our entrepreneurial community is just as important. After all, the true mission of Team South Carolina is to provide opportunities for the people of this great state, and there is no greater way to accomplish this than by cultivating a business environment that promotes entrepreneurial activity and the success of startup firms.

Over the last week, innovators all across the globe recognized this by celebrating [Global Entrepreneurship Week](#). And, in South Carolina, our entrepreneurial community has a lot to celebrate. Since its inception in 2013, the Department of Commerce's Office of Innovation has awarded more than \$5 million in innovation grants to 33 programs across the state. A result of this investment, in its 2015 [ranking of states](#) by startup activity, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation gave South Carolina the biggest year-over-year jump— up 17 spots.

While our efforts to promote entrepreneurship in the Palmetto State have generated remarkable momentum, it's clear that, if we want to ensure a prosperous economy for the generations to come, we must continue to invest in our innovators.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: Foreign Direct Investment

As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday next week, we are reminded of the influence that a multitude of nations had on the creation and growth of the United States. Much as 17th century settlers from many countries across the Atlantic Ocean made their way to the new world in search of opportunity, today's industry leaders from all corners of the globe are locating in the Palmetto State in search of our pro-business environment and world-class workforce.

As a result, South Carolina has become a true leader in foreign direct investment. In fact, in its annual report released in September, IBM-Plant Location International [ranked the Palmetto State first](#) in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign investment, per capita. And, today, more than 1,200 operations of foreign-affiliated companies do business in South Carolina, proving that the Palmetto State is *'Just right'* for businesses from all over the globe; and, for that, we are truly thankful.

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Commerce Capture: Mankiewicz Coatings, LLC

On November 9, [Mankiewicz Coatings, LLC](#), a manufacturer of high-quality coating systems, broke ground on its new foot facility in Berkeley County. [Announced in December 2014](#), the expansion project will allow the company to quac its current facility and bring 15 new jobs to the Lowcountry, over the next five years.

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