

**From:** South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>  
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**Subject:** Globally Connected in South Carolina

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January 23, 2015

In just less than a month, Major League Baseball will commence spring training for the 2015 season, providing teams the opportunity to try out new players for roster and position spots. If the new players perform well, they'll be called up or even given starting positions on Major League rosters. Similarly, South Carolina's tremendous success in the economic development arena has elevated our position in the big leagues - to marketplaces around the world.

With international firms operating more than 1,200 facilities in the Palmetto State, there is no doubt that our reputation for having a business-friendly climate and world-class workforce has made its way around the globe. However, to continue our international success, it's important that we provide the businesses in our state with the resources needed to compete globally. Last year, we ramped up efforts to strengthen our small business international trade assistance programs with the creation of a new program - [South Carolina Opportunities for Promoting Exports \(SCOPE\)](#) - to complement the existing [State Trade and Export Promotion \(STEP\)](#) program. These programs are financial resources for small businesses looking to amplify their international trade efforts.

By continuing to strengthen our global connectivity and international trade efforts, through programs like SCOPE and STEP, we are ensuring a South Carolina business environment that remains '*Just right*.'

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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## Spotlight: South Carolina Ports Authority

As a critical component of South Carolina's global connectivity, the [South Carolina Ports Authority](#) and its seaport facilities in Charleston and Georgetown, as well as the Inland Port in Greer, provide the Palmetto State with the infrastructure needed to facilitate trade with more than 150 countries worldwide. This week, [the Port once more announced](#) strong year-end numbers as container volume climbed 12 percent in 2014. Additionally, the Inland Port closed out its first full calendar year in operation with 42,555 total rail moves.

Dedicated to providing South Carolina with the necessary infrastructure to remain ahead of the competition, the Port, with additional funding from the state and federal governments, is

## Upcoming

[South Carolina Export Center Seminar Turkey a](#)

[South Carolina Automotive 4th Annual Summit](#)

[Full Calendar Business](#)

## New

[Charleston play a key role in cybersecurity workforce](#)

[Technology firm opens new office](#)

[South Carolina container volume climb in](#)

committed to the deepening of Charleston Harbor to 52 feet. The deepening project, which [made significant progress last year](#) with the release of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, will allow the Port of Charleston to better serve post-Panamax vessels around the clock and under any tidal condition.

*Photo courtesy of the [South Carolina Ports Authority](#).*

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## Commerce Capture: Precision Southeast, Inc.

Last December, [Precision Southeast, Inc.](#), a manufacturer of injection molded plastic parts, [announced the expansion](#) eastern South Carolina. The expansion, through an \$18.6 million capital investment, is creating an expected 200 new Marion counties. Based in Myrtle Beach, the firm has operated in the Palmetto State since its establishment in 1980. a variety of industries, including the automotive, electronics, packaging, power tools, sporting goods, industrial and agricultural sectors.

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