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Subject: Commerce Communications: The Emergence of SC's High-Tech Economy

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June 24, 2016

Young people in today's South Carolina grew up never knowing of a time before globally-recognized industry giants called the Palmetto State home. Nearly four decades ago, Michelin decided to open one of its first major U.S. manufacturing facilities in Sandy Springs, S.C. Since then, the state's advanced manufacturing community has experienced unparalleled success, and a truly high-tech economy has emerged.

Before this emergence, South Carolina's economy was centered around the three T's – textiles, tobacco and tourism. While we still boast strong textile and tourism industries, advanced manufacturing has become a main driver of our economy. And, today, for those who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, such as electronics, biotechnology or advanced manufacturing, this state is your oyster. In fact, as a leader in high-tech employment growth, more than 75,000 South Carolinians are now working in science and engineering-related positions. And, global companies like Haier, General Electric, Volvo Cars and Nephron Pharmaceuticals are blazing trails across multiple industries, and doing so right here in South Carolina.

It's clear that great things are happening here, as new opportunities present themselves every week. Team South Carolina will continue to work hard, ensuring that this state remains a global economic player for years to come.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: Select USA Investment Summit

As a state that continues to lead the nation in foreign direct investment (FDI), South Carolina boasts a large contingent of internationally-based firms operating within our borders. To ensure that global industries continue to recognize the Palmetto State as an ideal location for business, the ongoing strengthening of relationships with industry and economic development leaders from around the world is crucial.

In that vein, participation in events that provide an opportunity to build new relationships and bolster existing ones is important. That's why Team South Carolina was out in full force at this week's [Select USA Investment Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. Featuring approximately 2,500 participants, the three-day conference was the perfect venue to meet with business leaders from all corners of the globe and further spread the message that the Palmetto State offers all of the resources needed for international companies to thrive.

Commerce Capture: Beaufort Digital Corridor

This week, the Charleston Digital Corridor announced plans to launch an implementation of its tech business develop

the state's second oldest city -- Beaufort, S.C. A partnership with the City of Beaufort, the Beaufort Digital Corridor w mission: to attract, nurture and promote technology-related companies within the Sea Islands community.

Photo courtesy of Beaufort Digital Corridor.

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