

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 9/12/2014 3:27:35 PM
Subject: Causing a Digital Shift in South Carolina

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September 12, 2014

From creating 3D printers to accelerating startups, the industry of innovation is moving swiftly in South Carolina, and our focus on creating a robust high-tech and entrepreneurial environment is beginning to cause a digital shift. The technology business magazine *Fast Company* has given Charleston the moniker "Silicon Harbor," ranking the Holy City as one of the top 10 fastest-growing cities for software and internet technology. Additionally, with Columbia and Greenville expanding their digital universe, a report from the Bay Area Council Economic Institute ranked South Carolina the number two state for high-tech employment growth in the nation. A separate report from the University of Nebraska released last month showed that South Carolina surged 27 spots on an annual entrepreneurship state ranking.

Innovation is creativity at work, and we want to make sure innovation is at work in our state. This week, Commerce's Office of Innovation issued the second [South Carolina Innovation Challenge](#). The Challenge is open statewide and offers up to \$2 million in competitive grant funding for programs that aim to grow the state's high-tech and entrepreneurial economic development efforts.

The advancement of innovation is important to South Carolina's economic future. And it is vital that we nurture that spark and support the talented innovators and inventors living within our borders, which will mean great things for the future of business here in South Carolina.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

Spotlight: [LocateSC.com](#)

Marketing the state's available sites, buildings and industrial parks to prospective businesses continues to be a high priority for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Making that task easier for prospects and partners alike, available inventory across the state is just a click away with Commerce's site for sites: [LocateSC.com](#).

The one-stop online shop launched last year and includes an extensive database of available buildings, parks and parcels of land that are submitted by county economic developers and allies. There are currently around 700 individual properties featured on LocateSC, which are searchable by county, size (acreage or square feet), rail access and proximity to ports. Additionally, users may peruse the

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available inventory of Certified Sites that successfully have completed Commerce's site certification program, which is administered by McCallum Sweeney.

To start viewing sites and buildings across South Carolina, visit www.LocateSC.com.

Photo caption: *The Carolina Pines Spec Building in Richland County is one of approximately 700 listed sites and buildings on Commerce's LocateSC site.*

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Commerce Capture: General Electric

In June, **General Electric** announced the construction of a new state-of-the-art **Power & Water advanced manufacturing** built in Greenville, SC. GE plans to invest \$400 million over the next ten years in Greenville to expand the company's manufacturing capabilities. The new facility is expected to open in 2015 and create more than 80 new high tech jobs. Power & Water's first advanced manufacturing facility.

*Photo caption: An F-class gas turbine being assembled at the GE facility in Greenville. The company is the leading wind turbine manufacturer in South Carolina. Photo courtesy of **GE**.*

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