

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
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June 10, 2016

In all stages of life, it's a well-known fact that if you haven't prepared for success, you're likely going to come in second. But, for Team South Carolina, the goal is to always come in first - something we've done quite a few times in recent years. Since 2010, manufacturing employment in South Carolina has increased nearly 15 percent - a figure which leads the Southeast. More than just a manufacturing stronghold, however, a variety of different industries - including technology, distribution, agribusiness and more -- are now thriving within our borders.

So, why has our state been so successful? It certainly doesn't hurt that we have a robust infrastructure network, featuring a world-class, innovative port system. South Carolina has also been on the forefront of workforce development efforts, with trailblazing training and apprenticeship programs that help our rapidly-growing workforce meet the needs of both current and future employers. Another reason for our economic surge is the state's unparalleled pro-business environment, which helps ensure prosperity for our existing industries.

While these are all remarkable assets, the best attribute we have is each other - Team South Carolina. From state and local officials to the various utilities, to leadership at the Port, as well as within our education and private sector communities, it takes all of us working hand-in-hand to ensure that South Carolina remains '*Just right*' for business.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: South Carolina Ports Authority

As a critical component of South Carolina's robust infrastructure network, the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) provides businesses within our state unrivaled global connectivity. In fact, each day, an average of six vessels sail into one of our state's harbors, carrying cargo worth more than \$150 million. And, as one of the nation's fastest growing container ports, those figures are only expected to increase.

To accommodate this growth, the State of South Carolina and the SCPA are planning to invest \$2 billion in port-related infrastructure over the next ten years. Including the all-important Charleston Harbor deepening project to 52 feet, these investments are a statement to both existing industry, as well as prospects -- South Carolina is and will continue to be a top destination for international trade and distribution.

From the Port of Charleston to the innovative Inland Port in Greer and all facilities in between, the SCPA is paramount to the state's economy. With an annual economic impact of \$53 billion, the SCPA is a pivotal member of Team South Carolina and helps make our state an excellent place to do business.

Photo courtesy of South Carolina Ports Authority.

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Commerce Capture: Kobelco Construction Machinery U.S.A., Inc.

Last week, Kobelco Construction Machinery U.S.A., Inc., officially opened its \$41 million Spartanburg County facility. In January 2015, the excavator manufacturing operation is expected to generate approximately 130 new jobs in the company. The company is a subsidiary of the Japan-based Kobelco Construction Machinery Co., Ltd.

South Carolina Department of Commerce
(803) 737-0400 | marketing@sccommerce.com
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600 | Columbia, SC 29201
www.SCcommerce.com

South Carolina Dept. Of Commerce, 1201 Main Street, Suite 1600, Columbia, SC 29201

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