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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## **Ithaca Gun Company Chooses Horry County for Southeast Expansion** *\$6.7 million investment expected to create 120 new jobs*

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – Ithaca Gun Company, an Ohio-based firearms manufacturer, has announced their decision to expand their manufacturing operations to the Myrtle Beach area.

The \$6.7 million investment will create 120 new, high-skilled jobs, to include machine operators, gunsmiths, engineers and assemblers.

"Ithaca Gun Company is excited about locating to Horry County," said Mike Farrell, chief operating officer of Ithaca Gun Company. "We have received great support from the state and the local officials to make this happen. South Carolina offers us the right mix of business-friendly climate, a steady workforce with training opportunities and an excellent quality of life we were looking for in establishing a new facility."

Ithaca will construct a new 20,000-square-foot facility at Horry County's Cool Springs Business Park located near Aynor, S.C. Production is expected to be underway in 2014. Factors that contributed to the company's site selection included the quantity and quality of the area labor force, proximity to technical colleges for training workers in Conway and Florence and quality of life.

"South Carolina continues to recruit manufacturing jobs to our state. We welcome Ithaca Gun Company to Horry County, and applaud their decision to invest over \$6 million and create 120 new jobs along the Grand Strand," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has recruited more than \$9 billion in capital investment and more than 26,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

"South Carolina is known for making things and making them well," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Ithaca Gun Company's decision to locate here underscores that, and we are appreciative that they will support more than 100 higher-wage jobs in the region."

Bringing this project to the state involved coordination between the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation, North Eastern Strategic

Alliance (NESA), the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT) located in Florence, Horry County Council, Santee Cooper, the Horry County legislative delegation and Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Founded in 1883, Ithaca is recognized as an American leader in the development and manufacturing of premiere multiple gauge shotguns and the Model 1911 pistol.

#### **Quotes from Federal, State and Local Leaders:**

##### **U.S. Congressman Tom Rice**

"I continue to be amazed at the accomplishments of the Myrtle Beach Regional EDC's staff, board and team. I also can't think of a finer company in America or a better fit for the Seventh Congressional District than the Ithaca Gun Company. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing another great manufacturing win to Horry County."

##### **Chairman of NESA and South Carolina State Senator Yancey McGill**

"Today's Ithaca Gun Company expansion signifies the great environment present in not only the NESA region, but in South Carolina as a whole." I'd like to thank Ithaca Gun Company, Horry County, NESA, the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation, the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and the South Carolina Department of Commerce for their resolute determination in pursuing this project and making the creation of 120 jobs and \$6.5 million in investment possible. When you have businesses with the notoriety of Ithaca Gun Company expanding in our area, it says a lot about the business climate of our region and certainly shows we're headed in the right direction."

##### **South Carolina State Representative Mike Ryhal**

"This was a tremendous effort by the EDC and adds another solid employer to Horry County. I had the opportunity to visit Ithaca at their current manufacturing location in Sandusky and quickly recognized them as a competitive company committed to delivering a precision made American built product. The addition of 120 jobs will have a ripple effect throughout our area and benefit all of us. I appreciate the opportunity of being involved in this project and commend Brad Lofton and the EDC for their efforts."

##### **Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus**

"Today is yet another great day for economic development in Horry County, and I am proud to be a part of the team that helped recruit this great American company to our community. I am anxiously looking forward to seeing them build their legacy shotguns right here on the Grand Strand!"

##### **About Ithaca Gun Company**

Ithaca Gun Company is a firearms manufacturer based out of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Founded in 1883, Ithaca has earned an elite reputation for being a highly respected leader in the gun manufacturing industry. For more information, visit <http://www.ithacagun.com>.

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