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Subject: Essex Holdings establishing new facility in Marion County

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\$54.4 million investment expected to create 215 new jobs

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Gov. Nikki Haley joined officials from Miami-based Essex Holdings Inc., a global resources company, today in announcing the company’s plans to establish a new facility in Marion County. The \$54.4 million investment is expected to generate 215 new jobs.

“We are excited about the opportunity to establish our new manufacturing facility in Marion County. This new facility will increase our operational capacity and hence represents an important step for our company’s growth. South Carolina has a great business environment, and we strongly believe that this integration will be a bona fide step to further give added value to our food division’s operations. We look forward to starting our operations there and appreciate all the support we’ve received from state and local officials,” said Dr. Navin Xavier, president and CEO for Essex Holdings.

Essex Holdings will establish a new manufacturing facility, which will support the expansion of the company’s food division. The new facility is expected to be completed and operational by the middle of this year.

“More and more companies are seeing South Carolina as the ‘it’ state for doing business, and today’s announcement by Essex Holdings is another sign of that. The company’s decision to set up operations in Marion is also a big win for one of our state’s rural areas. We celebrate Essex Holdings’ commitment to invest \$54.4 million and create 215 new jobs in Marion,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Since January 2011, South Carolina has recruited more than \$8 billion in capital investment and more than 21,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

“Essex Holdings’ investment in Marion is another sign that South Carolina continues to be just right for business. Every one of these jobs will have an impact in Marion and will help keep the community sustainable for years to come,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

Founded in 2008, Essex Holdings Inc. is a producer and integrated producer with specialties in the trade of global resources. The company has both domestic and international offices with several manufacturing facilities.

“Marion County Council, administration and economic development couldn’t be more pleased that Essex Holdings has chosen Marion County to be the site for their new plant. Their announcement to the region confirms that Marion County is ‘Just Right’ for their business. Marion County Council thanks Dr. Xavier and appreciates Essex Holdings’ confidence in us and our work force, and we certainly appreciate their investment in our community. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Essex for many years to come,” said Elista Smith, chairwoman of Marion County Council.

“I feel positive and energized about this endeavor. The revitalization of this site will be a turning point for Marion County. Upon entering Marion, visitors will once again see a thriving and viable plant. Essex Holdings Inc. is a global leader with demonstrated successes, commitment to the environment and the local communities in which they invest. It is a testament to the quality of our available workforce in Marion County that their expansion into South Carolina is starting in our hometown,” said state Sen. Kent Williams.

The company will begin hiring for the new positions in May. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should visit www.essexholdings.com/available-positions.

For more information about the company, please visit www.essexholdings.com.

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