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Minnesota-Based Distributor Expanding Into Upstate

Greenville County Facility To Employ 50

GREENVILLE, SC – Diversified Distribution Systems, a Minnesota-based distributor to major retail stores across North America, announced plans Wednesday to open a new Southeast regional distribution center in Greenville.

DDS is a woman-owned company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. DDS has grown consistently over the past 18 years and serves the retail and airline industries. DDS serves its customers through eight major distribution centers across North America and Hawaii.

DDS officials expect to begin operations at the 150,000 square foot Husky building on Garlington Road in Greenville and hire 50 new employees. Initial investment and timing is being determined by company officials.

The decision was announced at the Mid-Year Investor Meeting of the Upstate Alliance, a 10-county organization that is responsible for aggressively marketing the Upstate to prospective industries.

State Secretary of Commerce Bob Faith was on hand to welcome DDS at the Upstate Alliance meeting.

“As my wife owns her own business, I can personally testify to the power of female drive and initiative,” said Commerce Secretary Bob Faith. “Today, I welcome DDS to Upstate South Carolina.”

Company officials decided to expand into Greenville County, at the Husky site, after an intensive search throughout the southeast.

“Despite strong marketing efforts by economic development officials in several other Southeast states, we chose the Greenville site because its accessibility to a quality labor market, its location within the Interstate 85 corridor and the strong quality of life in the Upstate area,” said Ila Courtney, Chair-Woman of Diversified Distribution Systems.

Upstate Alliance CEO/President Sam Konduros said, “Diversified Distribution Systems’ decision to come to Upstate South Carolina is an excellent indication that many companies are in a growth mode and are looking to expand operations.”

“We are determined to ensure that the Upstate will be on as many short-lists as possible for decision-makers looking to invest as we continue our regional marketing efforts.”

Greenville County officials were equally excited and recognized the role that the intense marketing efforts played in securing the company’s decision to locate in Greenville.

"We welcome Diversified Distribution Systems and are pleased they will create 40 to 50 new jobs," said Phyllis Henderson, Chair of Greenville County Council. "DDS' project demonstrates the important role the Upstate Alliance can play in our efforts to create new jobs for the Greenville area."

Marketing efforts by the Upstate Alliance, the Greenville Area Development Corporation and the South Carolina Department of Commerce, were key in DDS’ decision to expand into the Upstate.

“Recruiting first-class companies like Diversified Distribution Systems sometimes can be a challenging task. This success is because of the efforts of a large team including the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Greenville Area Development Corporation, and our Upstate counties,” Konduros said.

This is the second announced industrial expansion into the Upstate for which the Upstate Alliance has led the marketing efforts this year. In March, German-based automotive supplier Fraenkische announced they would open a U.S. headquarters and manufacturing facility in Anderson County.

Diversified Distribution Systems’ expects their initial employment at the site, their seventh warehouse, to consist of material handlers, pack and ship employees, and forklift drivers.

The Upstate Alliance is a public/private regional economic development organization designed to market the 10 counties in South Carolina’s Upstate – Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union. The 10 counties represent the commerce-rich northwestern corner of South Carolina, including the I-85 corridor and the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson metropolitan area. Additional information is available through the Alliance’s web site, www.upstatealliance.com.

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