

Orangeburg cited as 'optimal location' for Inbra Chemical Co.

Brazilian-based Inbra Chemical Co. officially announced in April it will open its first manufacturing facility in the United States in Orangeburg.

Inbra President Paulo Heining described the company's entry into the U.S. as a major step, saying Orangeburg is "an optimal location."

"We are certain that the logistical and cost advantages of this project will enable us to improve our presence in the global market and, most important, benefit our current and future customers," Heining said.

"It is very clear to us now that South Carolina is a pro-business state, and we look forward to continuing our excellent co-operation with the state and

Orangeburg County officials as we continue to grow our business," he said.

Inbra agreed to invest a minimum of \$7.7 million and produce 14 jobs in Orangeburg over the next five years. The investment could reach \$10 million, and as many as 20 jobs could be created.

Inbra purchased 21.51 acres from The Oaks at Highway 21 and Gulbrandsen Road. Court documents indicate the cost of the property was \$258,000.

Operations are expected to begin in the first quarter of 2016.

"We look forward to the job creation and economic growth that this company will provide to Orangeburg County and its

citizens," Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. said in a prepared statement.

"It is a real pleasure to welcome Inbra to Orangeburg County, 'the place where success is made,'" Orangeburg County Development Commission Chairman Kenneth Middleton said. "We always say, 'Teamwork makes the dream work.'"

Inbra was founded in October 1939 in Brazil. It made products for the textile industry and, with the innovation of PVC piping, Inbra began production of liquid and solid stabilizers using extracts from soybean oil and foaming agents.

The Orangeburg facility will

specialize primarily in plasticizer production with a focus on the polyvinyl chloride market.

Of the 14 jobs Inbra will create, 10 are for skilled laborers, three are for unskilled work and one is for a sales position.

The company received a fee-in-lieu-of-taxes incentive. The incentive allows companies to pay a fee instead of property taxes based on a 6 percent assessment ratio rather than the standard 10.5 percent.

Also, the Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a \$75,000 rural infrastructure fund grant to Orangeburg County to assist with the costs of real property improvements related to the project.



Orangeburg County Development Commission

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New Spec Building at John W. Matthews, Jr. Industrial Park



GKN prepares plant for Boeing work

Plant modifications are underway at GKN Aerospace's second Orangeburg County facility as the company prepares for the manufacture of inlet lip skins for the Boeing 737 MAX and 777X.

GKN is raising the roof of its second plant in the Orangeburg County/City Industrial Park to about 56 feet and digging pits about 20 feet deep.

A lip skin is a part of the pod-like structure that houses the aircraft's engine. Lip skins aim to provide the aircraft with better engine fuel economy and reduce engine noise to meet increasingly stringent airport noise regulations.

"We are excited about the opportunity for GKN to have a second facility," Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Gregg Robinson said.

"A variance was granted for the building to go to this site and we are excited to have inlet lip skins manufactured in Orangeburg for Boeing," he said.

The process at the Orangeburg County plant will be vertically integrated, allowing

for incoming material receipt, spin forming, machining, heat treating, chemical processing and all inspection, certification and shipping.

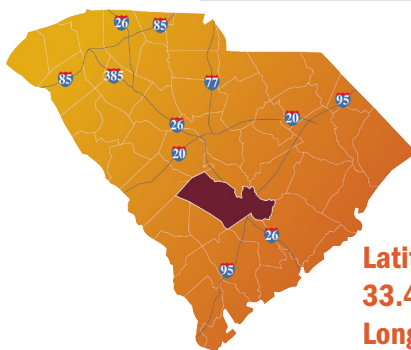
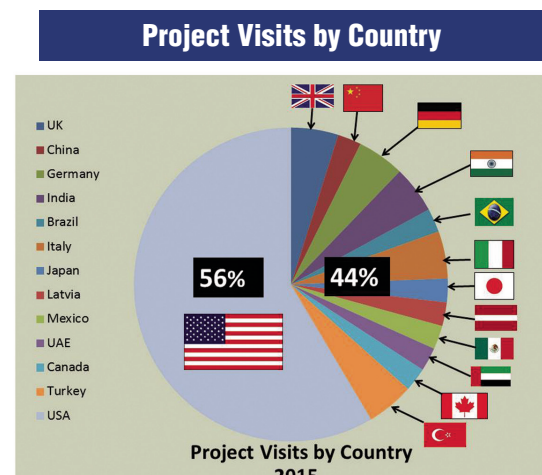
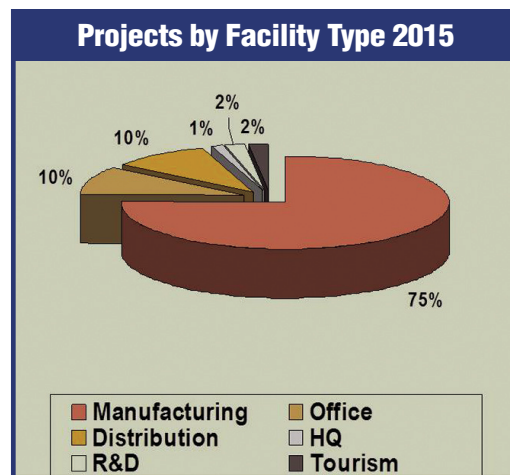
As part of the manufacture of the lip skin, the product has to be heated to about 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and then cooled in a bath for a short period of time.

The company announced in June that it would invest more than \$20 million in a

new manufacturing facility adjacent to its existing plant at the intersection of U.S. Highway 301 and Interstate 26.

First-part production from the building is scheduled for late 2016.

GKN announced in 2011 it was investing \$38 million in its initial plant at the park. This plant, which manufactures HondaJet fuselages, employs about 60.



Latitude
33.4917° N,
Longitude 80.8558° W

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I-95/U.S. 301 interchange near ready

Companies are starting to take a closer look at Orangeburg County because of improvements at the Interstate 95 and U.S. Highway 301 interchange, officials say.

"We are already picking up interest," Orangeburg County Engineer John McLauchlin said in April. An unidentified tire manufacturer had met with the county about the site, he said.

McLauchlin and others updated Orangeburg County Council on projects during an April meeting.

The \$41 million interchange improvement project was about 42 percent complete. It

was scheduled for completion in the first months of 2016. However, the project was delayed due to the historic flooding in October.

McLauchlin said there has been some interest in building a truck stop, similar to the Love's stop, near the new interchange. Currently, sewer lines stop at Bass Drive and would need to be extended to Bonner Avenue.

The new interchange is expected to benefit the Jafza Magna Park, which is a planned logistics, manufacturing and distribution park in Santee.



Okonite expanding for future growth

A manufacturer of electric power cables is expanding its Orangeburg operations in an effort to meet customer demand.

The Okonite Company will invest \$19.5 million and create at least 12 new jobs as part of the expansion. The investment was originally reported at \$15 million.

"This expansion will give The Okonite Company additional capacity to allow for incremental increases in future business conditions," Orangeburg Plant Manager Tom Sanchez said in a Tuesday press release.

"It will also posture us for future growth in both manning and equipment at our Orangeburg County facilities," he said.

Along with adding one new insulating line and two new rewind packing lines, the company will be expanding its rewind building by 12,600 square feet and its manufacturing building by 49,000 square feet.

The project is expected to be complete in October 2016.

The result will be increased capacity and higher efficiencies, the company said.

The company, which employs about 220, is situated on 122 acres at 2276 Rowesville Road.

At its Orangeburg plant, the company makes power cables that range from 300 volts to 345 kilovolts that include instrumentation, power and control, medium voltage and high voltage cables.

The cables are manufactured with a variety of insulating and jacketing materials including Okoguard EPR, laminated polypro-

pylene paper and other thermosetting and thermoplastic compounds.

Okonite located in Orangeburg 1993 and has grown to over 650,000 square feet at the Orangeburg County Industrial Park.

Headquartered in Ramsey, N.J., Okonite calls itself America's oldest independent wire and cable manufacturer, with a history of more than 133 years of service to the electric industry.

The Orangeburg County expansion is one of three the company is undertaking. The other expansions are occurring at its California and Kentucky plants. Okonite also has manufacturing plants in New Jersey and Rhode Island.



Orangeburg County certified 'Work Ready'

Orangeburg and Calhoun counties were certified by South Carolina as Work Ready Communities in September.

"This proves we are work ready and trying to enhance our skill sets so we can be more competitive," Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Gregg Robinson said.

Orangeburg and Calhoun received certification through the South Carolina Work Ready Communities initiative. The counties can now show employers they have skilled employees ready for work.

The Work Ready initiative measures the quality of a county's workforce based on four criteria: high school graduation, soft skills development, business support and National Career Readiness Certificate holders. Businesses already use the NCRC program to evaluate potential employees.

In addition to meeting its goals for having certified employees, Orangeburg County also reached a 70 percent-plus average graduation rate over three years. The county's current graduation rate is 70.7 percent.

Robinson thanked Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to ensure the goals were reached.

Calhoun County also met its goals, including reaching a graduation rate of 82 percent, exceeding the 73.1 percent goal.

"The Work Ready initiative is providing employers with a skilled workforce, which is driving the state's employment number where, in August, we saw more people working than any time in the our state's history," said Cheryl M. Stanton, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce.

Bimbo Bakeries adding 30 jobs with \$9.3M investment

Bimbo Bakeries USA officially announced in June it was expanding its manufacturing operations in Orangeburg.

The expansion was expected to create 30 new jobs in Orangeburg over the next five years.

"Bimbo Bakeries USA is excited to expand our baking operations in Orangeburg," Bimbo Bakeries USA Orangeburg Plant Manager Gordon Powell said.

"Aside from its geographic advantage as a logistics center, Orangeburg has nurtured a business-friendly environment and a strong workforce that we hope will enable us to continue to grow in South Carolina," he said.

The expansion at Bimbo's facility, located at 272 Broughton St., includes installation of new equipment. The project was completed by the second quarter of 2015.



"It's exciting to see such a well-respected company like Bimbo Bakeries USA recognize the benefits of doing business in South Carolina and make the decision to expand here," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

"Today, we congratulate this great American company on their \$9.3 million investment and celebrate the 30 new jobs it's creating in Orangeburg County," she said.

News of the expansion initially became public in April, when Orangeburg County Council approved a fee-in-lieu of taxes incentive for the company. Officials initially said the investment could reach \$14.7 million.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved a \$150,000 grant to Orangeburg County to assist with the cost of real property improvements related to the project.

Bimbo Bakeries USA is a subsidiary of Mexico's Grupo Bimbo, one of the world's largest bakery firms.

Since entering the U.S. bread market in 1997, Bimbo Bakeries USA has grown tremendously and today employs approximately 22,000 associates across the United States. Its headquarters are in Horscham, Pennsylvania.

2016-2017 Ambassador of the Year



Gordon Powell, Bimbo Bakeries USA Orangeburg Plant Manager, has been selected as the 2016 Orangeburg County Ambassador of the Year.

Recognized for their efforts to bolster community and economic development activities in South Carolina, the ambassadors from all 46 South Carolina counties will be honored in a ceremony held at the Governor's Mansion Complex.

Each year the Department of Commerce joins local communities to thank businesses for their vital contributions to South Carolina's economy during the state's Industry Appreciation Week.

Powell, a graduate of Bob Jones University, and his wife Norma currently reside in Summerville, SC.

LEGENDS OF LOCAL BUSINESS: Cox, Tourville, Nance, Wannamaker are inaugural inductees for hall of fame



William B. Cox Sr.

Founder Cox Industries,
Hall of Fame



Frank P. Tourville Sr.

Founder and Chairman Zeus Inc.,
Hall of Fame

Dr. T. Elliott Wannamaker

Founder Wannamaker Chemical,
Hall of Fame

Dr. M. Maceo Nance Jr.

President SC State University,
Lifetime Achievement



On Dec. 17, 2015 Cox Industries founder William B. Cox Sr., Zeus Industries founder Frank P. Tourville Sr., the late South Carolina State University President Dr. M. Maceo Nance Jr. and Wannamaker Chemical Co. founder Dr. T. Elliott Wannamaker became the inaugural members of the Orangeburg County Business Hall of Fame.

The men were inducted by the Orangeburg County Economic Development Partnership during an invitation-only event held at the Orangeburg Country Club. The (OCP) is a public/private partnership focused on assisting the Orangeburg County Development Commission in development.

The criteria for selection into the Orangeburg County Business Hall of Fame includes: the significance of the impact made as a business leader, the concern demonstrated for improving the Orangeburg community and the display of ethics in all business dealings.

These four inaugural inductees are men who have successfully contributed to Orangeburg County's economic development and community enrichment. All have made their mark on the county through their business leadership and concern for bettering the county.