

Historic \$1B industrial announcement tops Orangeburg County's year in manufacturing

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

History was made in Orangeburg County industry this past year. Birla Carbon announced that it had received \$42 million in New Markets Tax Credit financing for the project.

The county has about 137 industrial companies, according to the OCDC website.

Orangeburg County is a part of the Central South Carolina Alliance.

The CSCA is a not-for-profit public/private partnership that engages in the recruitment of capital investment and jobs to the Midlands of South Carolina.

CSCA represents the City of Columbia and eight counties: Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg and Richland.

BAMBERG COUNTY Steel company creating 40 jobs

SPECIAL TO THE T&D

DENMARK — Blackhorse Steel Works, an advanced steel solutions provider, announced in March 2025 it is establishing operations in Bamberg County. The company's \$5.2 million investment will create 40 new jobs.

Blackhorse offers specialized steel services tailored for industrial and commercial projects. The company's capabilities include cutting, welding, bending, forming and precision processing.

"With our commitment to excellence, customer-focused innovation, precision products, an existing in-state customer base as well as roots in the area, Blackhorse Steel Works chose to locate in Bamberg County, South Carolina, to better serve our customers and support the local economy."



Our investment is a testament to our commitment to growing our business in the coming years. We appreciate the support and the welcome from the local community and the state," he said.

Blackhorse's 107,000-square-foot facility, located at 19110 Heritage Highway in Denmark, will be used for the fabrication of miscellaneous and structural steel components.

Operations are expected to be online in May 2025. Individuals interested in joining the company are encouraged to visit the company's website.

Gov. Henry McMaster said, "We are pleased to welcome Blackhorse Steel Works to Bamberg County. This investment will create jobs and help families maintain healthy lifestyles, homes and schools in communities where both families and businesses can flourish. We welcome Blackhorse Steel Works and look forward to providing a pro-business environment where the company can grow for years to come," she said.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development awarded a \$150,000 Rural Infrastructure Fund grant to Bamberg County to assist with the cost of building improvements.

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PROGRESS

Industry investing \$1B in county

Auto sector firm to bring 124 jobs; announcement is largest ever here

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

A manufacturing company in the automotive sector announced in October 2024 it is investing \$1 billion in Orangeburg County.



Breaking ground at the Tri-County Global Industrial Site in 2019 are, from left, Calhoun County Council Vice Chairman James Haigler, S.C. Department of Commerce Director of Global Business Nelson Lindsay, Orangeburg Mayor Michael Butler, Orangeburg County Development Commission Chairman Kenneth Middleton, Sen. John W. Matthews, Rep. Russell Ott, Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board Chairwoman Barbara Weston, Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. and Tri-County Electric Cooperative CEO [Name Redacted].

\$64 MILLION PROJECT

Premium Peanut plans to begin Santee shelling in 2026

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Construction continues at Premium Peanut's site in Orangeburg County. The Georgia-based company anticipates it will begin peanut-shelling operations at its plant in Santee during the first quarter of 2026.

"We are excited to be a part of the Santee community, as well as the broader Orangeburg County community, and look forward to supporting and investing in those communities as our business grows,"

Rachel Santos

Premium Peanut Director of Sales and Industry Relations

justed the original scope. Santos said Premium Peanut began land clearing and dirt work in 2022 and erected a structure for ambient warehouse storage shortly after clearing. Over the past year, the company has been in the engineering and design phase, along with construction, Santos said. Prior to September 2024, the company had completed dirt work.

Since September, the general contractor, Bates, has been on site in Santee managing the project, including utility and underground infrastructure. Santos also has been overseeing the construction of an additional building.

Company plans \$11M investment

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T&D Staff Writer

A company is planning to invest \$11 million in a new facility at Orangeburg County's John W. Matthews Industrial Park, which is located near Santee.

The company plans to create six full-time jobs and 100 part-time jobs, former Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Merle Johnson said.

Johnson said he was "not at liberty" to reveal the name of the tenant. The name of the company has still not been released.

He discussed the issue with Orangeburg County Council during its Aug. 19 meeting.

Council gave approval to the sale of about 10.5 acres of land at the industrial park to Greensboro, N.C.-based Samet Corp., a commercial real estate construction company.

An example of Samet's work in South Carolina is the Spyder Auto distribution facility in Summerville.

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'TRANSFORMATIONAL'



U.S. Congressman James Clyburn, center, is joined by officials from Scout Motors, Sodecia Automotive North America, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sodecia Aapico JV, LLC Joint Venture manufacturing facility in Orangeburg.

Scout Motors supplier breaks ground on Orangeburg County site

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Sodecia Aapico Joint Venture, LLC broke ground on Monday on a project that's slated to create 392 new jobs over the next five years in Orangeburg County.

The company plans to invest \$120.1 million to manufacture ladder frames for Scout Motors' SUV and truck model vehicles.

"Every great journey begins with a first step," Sodecia CEO Rui Monteiro said. "Today, we take that step."

"The ground new facility will be a symbol of the future of the area but also strength," Monteiro said. "Sodecia is an iconic brand a symbol of adventure and freedom that has inspired generations."

The company's 400,000-square-foot facility is located near Interstate 26's Exit 104, just off of Highway 17.

Tri-County Global Industrial Site. It's located near Interstate 26's Exit 104, just off of Highway 17.

Rail link key draw for Scout supplier

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Scout Motors' \$2 billion Blythwood plant is already reshaping South Carolina's economy, with its suppliers choosing Orangeburg County for a new manufacturing venture.

Sodecia and Aapico are a joint venture in Orangeburg County. The project is driven by the county's strong infrastructure, including the new rail link, which is a key draw for the company.

The Tri-County Global Industrial Site was selected for the project, in part, because it was strategically located near the rail link.



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to meet the expectations of Scout and Volkswagen.

"Their timeline was so tight and they could not do a lot of due diligence up front," Lowder said. "They had to have a strong relationship with the county and the city to get the project moving so quickly."

Existing local industry investing \$2.4M, adding 90 new jobs

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

An unidentified existing Orangeburg County industry is investing \$2.4 million and adding 90 new jobs to its Orangeburg County plant.

The construction and engineering industry is expanding its manufacturing operations.

tax incentives—a special source revenue credit—that will reduce the company's property taxes to reimburse it for costs.

The company has been publicly identified by the code name Project Magnolia and officials have yet to release the company's identity through the end of March 2025.

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