

One Thousand New Jobs riding into Allendale on New Tire Plant

By: Ron Baxley, Jr.

FAIRFAX IN ALLENDALE COUNTY – Tin Thanh Group Americas announced several months ago that it is opening a tire retread and tire recycling facility on Walker Rd. in Fairfax with an anticipated opening date of January 2025.

While they had the initial groundbreaking ceremony in March, they are continuing steps in the initial construction process. During that event, Tin Thanh Group Americas Chief Executive Officer Tran Dinh Quyen announced, “Tin Thanh Group Americas is excited to make South Carolina home for its first location outside Vietnam and is proud to be South Carolina’s first Vietnamese company.”

“With the assistance of the Department of Commerce, the Southern Carolina Alliance and the officials at Allendale County, and the assistance of readySC, the decision was clear compared with the other locations that sought our project in the Southeast,” Quyen continued.

Quyen concluded, “Tin Thanh Group Americas looks forward to a long-lasting, fruitful, and cooperative relationship with all of South Carolina.”

Keith D. Sernick, Esq., a consultant for economic development funding and government relations with State Street Advisers, is working closely with Tin Thanh Group Americas and serves as an additional spokesperson for the company. According to Sernick's email sign-off, State Street Advisers has

offices in the following locations: Beaufort, South Carolina; Garden City and Rochester, New York; and Greenwich, Connecticut.

Sernick said in mid-June, “We have not broken ground formally. We are in the process of engaging a general contractor and anticipate having the contractor in place by July 15, 2023.”

He said once the initial work begins that the ground breaking ceremony will occur 18 months afterward and that he anticipates the opening date of the facility will be January 2025.

The facility is projected to be 1.1 million square feet. According to online sources, this would be the equivalent of over 15 football fields.

According to a release from Gov. Henry McMaster’s office several months ago, the facility represents a \$68 million dollar investment by the company.

In addition, The Coordinating Council for Economic Development in S.C. approved job development credits related to this project. The council also awarded a \$1 million Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) grant to Allendale County to assist with the costs of site preparation and infrastructure improvements.

According to Gov. McMaster’s release, “Tin Thanh Group Americas’ South Carolina location will allow the company to manufacture and retread large commercial vehicle tires, as well as operate its commercial tire leasing program.”

“Supplying energy from reusable sources, Tin Thanh Group Americas will provide operations in recycled energy, closed industry-agriculture, recycled waste, and tire leasing while serving the environment, energy, high-tech agriculture, and technology markets,” the release continued.

The release concluded, “With a focus on sustainability, the company is committed to implementing sustainable practices to lower the carbon-emission level and provide a cleaner environment.”

Sernick said the methods that will be used in the production and product are unknown at this time but will comply with all necessary regulations.

According to a graphic from the company, the tire recycling factory will receive 500,000 tons of material a year. Also, the capacity of tire retreading will be 200,000 tires a year. Within the facility, the capacity for recycled tires will be 488,000 tons per year.

Also, the facility is anticipated to bring approximately 1,085 jobs to Allendale County/the region according to Sernick -- more than initially anticipated.

Sernick said these jobs will range from everything to janitorial to the C.E.O.

He said entry level work will require a high school degree or GED.

Management positions will also be available at the facility.

Sernick said those positions will require professional degrees such as those in accounting, the legal areas, and engineering.

He said they plan on utilizing USC-Salkehatchie for training.

“We have interacted with the president on several occasions already,” Sernick added.

Gov. McMaster said several months ago about Tin Thanh Group bringing their facility to Fairfax in Allendale County, “This announcement once again shows the world has taken notice of the many benefits of doing business in South Carolina. This major \$68 million investment and 1,031 new jobs will be transformative for Allendale. We proudly welcome our first Vietnamese Company, Tin Thanh Group Americas, to the state and look forward to creating a long-standing partnership.”

“Today is another win for South Carolina! When clean energy companies such as Tin Thanh Group Americas decide to invest in our state, it is a testament to the talented workforce that contributes to the rapid growth of sustainable companies. Congratulations to Tin Thanh Group Americas on its first operations in the U.S.,” said Secretary of Commerce Harry M. Lightsey III.

Allendale County Council Chairman Matthew Connelly said, “Allendale County welcomes Tin Thanh Group Americas to our community, and we thank them for their investment in our future and our people. Each of the more than one thousand jobs will make a difference in the lives of (each) family in the region because good jobs and good economic development change lives.”

“Southern Carolina Alliance welcomes Mr. Tran and the Tin Thanh Group Americas to our region, where they plan to build their first facility in the U.S. The jobs they are creating, and their capital investment will be a tremendous

catalyst to growth in this rural area. Industries like Tin Thanh are the backbone of the regional economy and touch every aspect of the local community,” said SouthernCarolina Alliance President and Chief Executive Officer Danny Black.

According to their website, Tin Thanh Group is a pioneer in using renewable energy and reducing global emissions, aiming for a multi-industry business, sustainable development for an increasingly better environment, and reducing emissions for this earth.

For more information or to submit resumes for the Fairfax plant, email kds@stateadvisers.com .