



**OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS
IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

South Carolina

MARCH 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

European Companies—At Home in South Carolina

South Carolina is proud to host some of the most respected European companies who manufacture products recognized worldwide for their quality and innovation. Today, industry leaders such as Bayer, BMW, Dunlop Slazenger, Electrolux, Michelin, Nestle, Pirelli, Robert Bosch, Roche Holdings, and Unicon Concrete operate in South Carolina. The message is clear: South Carolina is one of the best places in the world for Europeans to do business.

FACT: Today, nearly 400 European firms, representing 15 countries and employing more than 64,000 people, call South Carolina home.

What are European companies finding in South Carolina that they cannot find anywhere else? The answers are as varied as the approximately 400 European-owned operations that call South Carolina home. In general, European companies look for the same business advantages all companies look for: a strong location, skilled workers, and low-cost operations combined with maximum profits. The difference is that European firms tend to evaluate these criteria by different standards than do United States firms, and South Carolina understands the unique needs of European manufacturers.

South Carolina provides a strategic operating environment for European companies in the following ways:

- A rich history of **close working relationships** between European firms and the state which **result in long-term profitability** through collaborative partnerships;
- An East Coast location that guarantees **easy access to domestic and international markets** (see map on next page);
- One of the most **cost effective, productive, and technically competent workforces** in the United States;
- A **business friendly approach** that includes **comprehensive**

“Our first North American facility provides Emitec with a strong presence in the United States and allows us to better meet our customers’ needs. South Carolina is an excellent location, both economically and strategically.”

**Wolfgang Maus
Managing Director
Emitec GmbH
(a joint venture of Siemens
Automotive AG and GKN
Automotive AG,
Lohmar, Germany)**

- incentives, assistance with regulatory issues,** and unique services designed to **support existing business growth;** and
- **A blend of European and Southern cultures** that creates a **link to Europe** and offers the finest in American leisure activities.



SOUTH CAROLINA & EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

The Partnership Continues

For more than a century, South Carolina has cultivated a strong business relationship with European companies. The first European companies to come to South Carolina were mostly German and Swiss textile companies. As the state's economy diversified, so did the European presence in a number of industries from food to chemicals, and machinery to automotive products. What began as a slow trickle of investment a hundred years ago can now be described as record-breaking year after year. In 2005 alone, European firms invested more than \$803 million in South Carolina with both expansions and new operations. This represented over 85 percent of international investment in the state.

South Carolina has long been recognized as a place where businesses from all over the world can find resources and assistance they need to locate and operate smoothly—and profitably—in the United States and the global marketplace. In order to ensure that all new European investments are successful ventures for both the company and South Carolina, the state takes an active role in forming partnerships with industry, from initial site selection to life-long service after the sale.

For existing European firms in South Carolina and the state itself, the formula for success is very clear—develop a close working relationship and long-term partnership. The results of this collaborative approach have been highly successful.

- Nearly 400 European companies (of which about 77 percent are manufacturers) have investments in South Carolina.
- During the past 10 years, European firms invested (both new and expansions) more than \$12 billion in South Carolina.
- European investors in South Carolina comprise over 75 percent of all internationally owned companies in the state.
- Of the European companies that have invested in South Carolina, approximately 75 percent have reinvested or expanded their operations.
- South Carolina ranks 1st in the nation in terms of the percentage of its private workforce employed by job-creating foreign investment, or jobs supported by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies. Of the state's private sector workers, 8.4 percent are employed by job-creating foreign investment.

- The state ranks 16th in the nation in terms of total jobs created by foreign investment.
- European countries collectively make up one of South Carolina's largest trading partners—South Carolina's exports have reached more than \$13 billion annually, of which over 42 percent are shipped to Europe.

At the same time, South Carolina and local communities seek other alliances that strengthen their relationship with European countries and foster future opportunities. The following describes some of these unique alliances.

- *South Carolina Department of Commerce European Office:* Located in Munich, Germany, this office assists European firms investing in South Carolina. In addition, the European Office maintains a trade office that specializes in locating European buyers for goods and services originating in South Carolina.
- *British American Business Association of South Carolina:* This group is organized to promote goodwill, understanding, and cooperation between the people of the United Kingdom and the people of the state of South Carolina.
- *German American Business Forum of South Carolina:* This group is open to representatives of South Carolina member companies of the German American Chamber of Commerce.

WORLDWIDE MARKET ACCESS

Providing Strategic Access to Markets and Materials

South Carolina's strategic East Coast location offers European companies a competitive advantage in accessing domestic and international markets and receiving raw materials. In fact, the state's strategic location is central to a substantial portion of the nation's consumer and industrial markets and is within 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) of 35 states and roughly 75 percent of the total U.S. population (over 206 million people), and 27 percent of the nation's manufacturing facilities.

South Carolina's extensive transportation network—supported by five interstates, four commercial airports, three seaports, and 4,160 kilometers (2,600 miles) of rail—is a major benefit to European companies. This intermodal network ensures that raw materials and finished goods are transported in the most efficient manner possible. In other words, European companies can maintain just-in-time or other manufacturing/distribution processes, reduce transportation costs, and reduce shipping time, while at the same time being more responsive to customer requirements.

South Carolina Highways—The Road to Success

While South Carolina is 40th in size nationally, it has the 5th largest state maintained road system (a total of over 67,200 kilometers or 42,000 miles) and is crisscrossed by five strategic interstates (I-20, I-26, I-77, I-85, and I-95). The location and intersection of these interstates, combined with South Carolina's state highways, provide efficient access to the state's ports and over half of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan statistical areas. One measure of our commitment is the state's launch of an unprecedented \$5 billion investment over the next several years—this investment will more than double current road/highway construction and improvements.

Transportation Infrastructure



South Carolina Airports-Connecting European Companies to the World

Companies benefit from the proximity of a commercial airport within one hour of any location in South Carolina. By being close to an airport, better flight flexibility and time allocation is achieved. Direct flights are available to most major domestic hubs throughout the United States, and international connections can easily be made via Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, and New York.

The four largest commercial airports in South Carolina (and nearby Charlotte, NC) are listed below:

- *Charleston International Airport*—direct passenger flights to Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Detroit, MI; Fort Lauderdale, FL;

Houston, TX; New York, NY (JFK and LaGuardia); Newark, NJ; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Raleigh-Durham, NC; Tampa, FL; and Washington, DC;

- *Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (Charlotte, NC)*— offers around 500 daily scheduled flights, with 147 non-stop services offered to approximately 150 cities. Non-stop flights are offered to and from London, Frankfurt, Nassau, Bahamas, Bermuda, Ontario and the Grand Caymans;
- *Columbia Metropolitan Airport*—direct passenger flights to Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Detroit, MI; Houston, TX; New York, NY (LaGuardia); Newark, NJ; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Tampa, FL; and Washington, DC; and
- *Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport*— direct passenger flights to Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Houston, TX; Memphis, TN; Minneapolis, MI; New York, NY (LaGuardia); Newark, NJ; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh-Durham, NC; Tampa, FL; and Washington, DC.

South Carolina's commercial airports also offer overnight express cargo service through the primary carriers: Airborne, DHL, Emery Worldwide, Federal Express, and UPS. One of the UPS hubs is located at *Columbia Metropolitan Airport*.

Rail Service—An Impressive Track Record

Industry is served by two major rail companies (CSX and Norfolk-Southern), as well as seven affiliated and independent lines, which operate 4,160 kilometers (2,600 miles) of rail. Direct and swift rail service is available five to seven days a week to all South Carolina's metropolitan areas. Rail clearances are some of the most liberal on the East Coast.

With the merger of Conrail's northeast rail system into both CSX and Norfolk-Southern rail systems, both companies offer daily, double-stack train express services (inbound and outbound) that provide customers efficient access to the market gateways in the Northeast, Midwest, Canada, and Mexico, while eliminating costly double handling of goods. Also, in effort to meet the growing intermodal demands of industry, CSX and Norfolk-Southern offer specialized transloading service in Charleston that handles high volume and heavy-duty goods.

The Port of Charleston—Gateway to the World

The Port of Charleston presents European companies with an excellent opportunity to expand their global markets in partnership with one of the United States' strongest port operations. Charleston is one of three deep water seaports operated by the South Carolina Ports Authority—the others being Georgetown and Port Royal. The Port of Charleston, which is served by more than 40 steamship companies that call on countries all over the world, is only second in combined tonnage to the ports of New York and New Jersey.

FACT: Shipments to and from northern Europe represent over 1/3 (the single greatest volume) of the total cargo passing through the Port of Charleston each year.

The port continues to chart a course as a leader in marine transport, and the success is attributed to a number of factors. One of the most important factors is the port's close relationship with companies, which fosters a profound understanding of industry requirements. As a result, over 700 South Carolina companies ship products through the Port of Charleston.

Another measurement of success is the port's fully automated customs, providing a real time cargo expediting and clearance system. This system provides a competitive and economic advantage as US Customs, other government agencies, freight forwarders, customs brokers, steamship lines and agents, inland carriers, shippers, consignees, and port personnel are seamlessly linked through this electronic network. The system substantially reduces



South Carolina State Ports Authority

The Port of Charleston is served by more than 40 steamship companies that call on countries all over the world.

FACT: The Port of Charleston handles 50 percent of all shipments between Miami, Florida and Norfolk, Virginia that are exported to or imported from northern Europe.

customs delays, processing time, and paperwork. In fact, cargo and ships move through the Port of Charleston faster than any competing port. Port terminals are about one hour from the open sea. Dockside cranes consistently work at 40 gross moves per hour per crane. On average trucker turn time is less than 30 minutes gate to gate. Expenses were

reduced more than \$2 million and nearly \$1.5 billion in port-related improvement projects progressed toward completion in 2004 to secure the port's position as a global leader (SC State Ports Authority, 2005).

Foreign Trade Zones

Complementing South Carolina's world-class transportation system are three strategically located Foreign Trade Zones: Foreign Trade Zone 21 operates six sites in the Charleston area; Foreign Trade Zone 38 is located adjacent to the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport; and Foreign Trade Zone 127 is located adjacent to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

These zones offer substantial cost-saving advantages for companies who import or export manufactured raw materials or products. Below are some of the benefits of these zones:

- Possible reduction or elimination of customs duty;
- Deferral of duty payment until the time of delivery of the final product into U.S. commerce; and
- Increased efficiency because customs can be bypassed through direct delivery.



SKILLED WORKFORCE

Our Greatest Resource

Besides an exceptional climate for business, South Carolina's greatest resource is its workforce. We are positioned to provide European firms with one of the most cost effective, productive, and technically competent workforces in the United States.

A Workforce that is Flexible and Productive

A major benefit European companies find in South Carolina is a workforce is both productive and flexible. Being a right-to-work state (meaning non-compulsory union membership) and an employment-at-will state (meaning a company can discharge an employee without incurring liability), South Carolina companies maintain control of their workforce and manufacturing operations. The results are clear:

- South Carolina ranks 7th in the US and 2nd in the Southeast based on value added per worker in manufacturing, a measure of productivity. (*US Census Bureau, 2001 Annual Survey of Manufacturers tabulations done by CQ's State Fact Finder 2004: Rankings Across America.*)
- South Carolina has one of the **lowest unionization rates in the nation**. Approximately 4.5 percent of the state's workforce are union-affiliated (*Union Member and Earnings Data Book, 2004*).

Like Europeans, we emphasize a strong work ethic and pride in workmanship—this results in better products, higher profits, and workers who are loyal to the company and management.

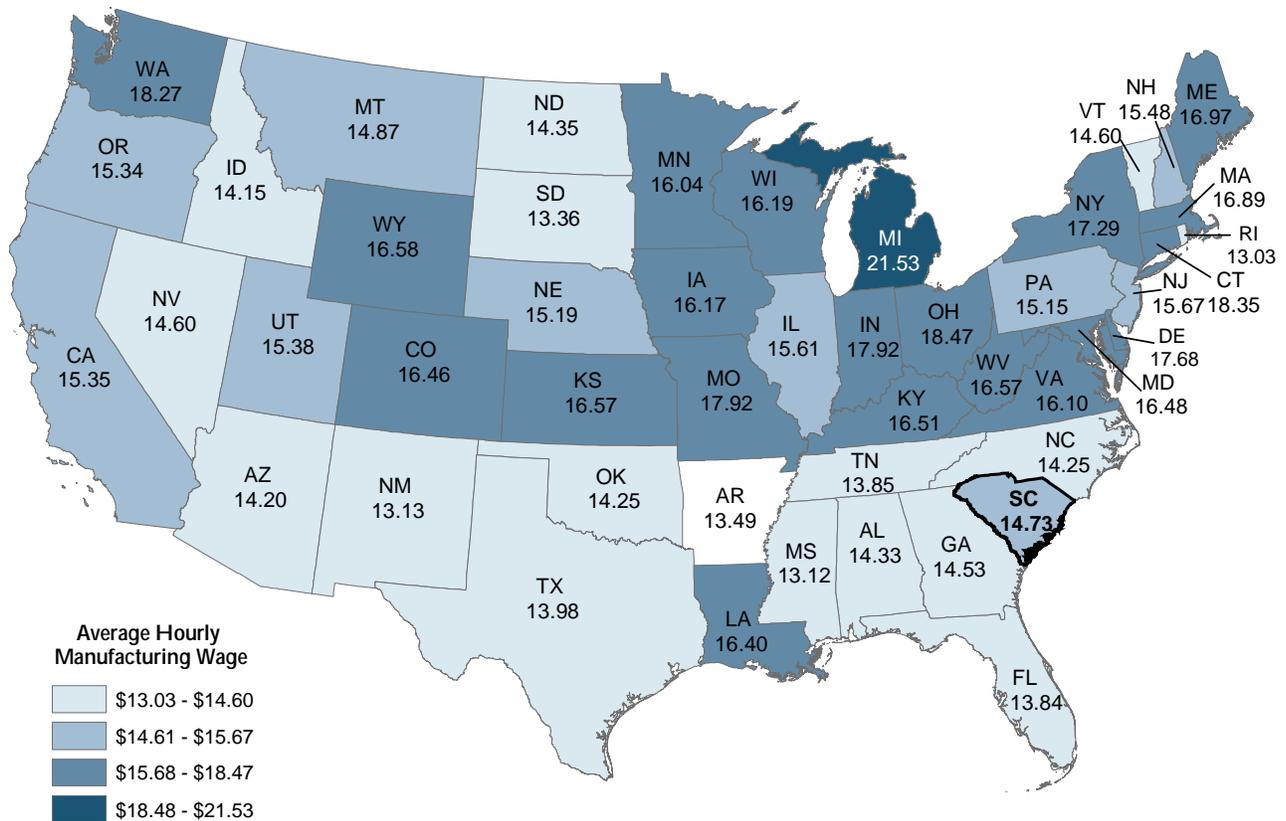
An Available Workforce that is Cost Effective

In addition to having a flexible and productive workforce, South Carolina offers European firms an available workforce that is cost effective—this is critical for the success and profitability of any company:

"We are a renowned supplier of the electronic and automotive industry. Our customers in the USA expect first quality and complete reliability. Here in South Carolina, we see excellent conditions to fulfill the requirements of our customers and to achieve further growth."

Dr. Hubert Schmidt
President
Stueken L.L.C.
(Hubert Stueken GmbH & Co.,
Riteln, Germany)

- South Carolina has one of the highest percentages of manufacturing workers (over 20 percent) in the United States;
- South Carolina's workforce is projected to grow more than 10 percent over the next ten years; and
- South Carolina's manufacturing wages have been consistently lower than the national average. In fact, at \$14.73 per hour, South Carolina's manufacturing wages are **among the lowest in the country**, according to the *May 2005 Employment and Earnings*, published by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.



A Workforce Trained for Industry Demands

South Carolina has committed tremendous resources to training its workforce. Specifically, our collaborative approach to supporting the requirements of our industries is three-fold:

- *Technical Colleges:* South Carolina has an extensive network of 16 technical colleges, many with branch campuses that support technical training. Because all South Carolina residents live or work within 30 minutes of one of these campuses, training is convenient and easily accessible statewide.

The mission of the technical colleges is to support economic development. As a result, each college is keenly focused on serving local business and industry needs, and this in turn is reflected in a constantly updated curriculum. European companies can use the TECH system to accomplish employee training, offer continuing education opportunities, hire entry level workers who have completed related degree programs, and keep skills sharpened and in tune with the latest business and management technology.

- *Advanced Worker Training (The Center for Accelerated Technology Training):* For more than 40 years, South Carolina's TECH system has provided one of the state's most powerful economic development incentives—The Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT). This program provides companies moving to, or expanding in, South Carolina with well-trained and highly motivated employees through a comprehensive and customized process that includes recruiting, screening, and training.

CATT is often the key element that allows South Carolina companies to start-up rapidly, to operate efficiently and productively, and to succeed in today's global environment. The program is driven exclusively by a company's needs and desired level of partnership. Hallmarks of this nationally acclaimed program include: flexibility, responsiveness, quality control, solid management, experience, a grasp of world-class quality concepts, and the ability to help create highly functioning work teams and cross-company project teams.

- *Higher Education:* South Carolina's three research universities have nationally recognized training programs and research initiatives: Clemson

"We are attracting and retaining top research scientists, engineers, and technicians. South Carolina's up-to-date research and teaching facilities provide us with the scientific and technical talent we need. These institutions work in a true partnership with our company."

Don Herriott
President
Roche Carolina
(F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.,
Basel, Switzerland)

University, University of South Carolina (USC), and Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Clemson and USC have extensive engineering coursework related directly to the requirements of South Carolina's industries, as well as research centers dedicated to new technology. MUSC has developed a comprehensive clinical testing program and houses one of the United State's only university-based pharmaceutical development centers. MUSC utilizes its biomedical research results for economic growth with the private sector in grant contract research, licensing, and new company development. The relationships between South Carolina companies and these schools have resulted in numerous successes including technology transfer, competitive advantages, and access to modern manufacturing technologies.

BUSINESS FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

South Carolina Fosters Prosperity and Expansion

South Carolina understands that companies, not the government, invest capital and create jobs. It is our responsibility to work with industry to create a climate that fosters prosperity and expansion. From the initial contact through planning, construction, start-up, and continued business growth, the state provides one of the leading probusiness environments in the United States. In fact, South Carolina is consistently a leader in the Southeast in per capita investment with nearly \$4 billion in investments over the past two years.

South Carolina has earned recognition as a business friendly state by placing emphasis on the complex needs of our investors. We understand that European firms exploring investment opportunities in our state want to know the processes required to start-up and operate a business here from the costs associated with operation to the forms of assistance available through the state and local governments.

As part of our efforts to develop a long-term partnership with all of our companies, South Carolina works with European firms to promote a clear understanding of the business tax structure and regulatory climate in the state as well as the available financial incentives. In addition, we provide continuous support resources for all companies in the state, not only during start-up but also for the life of the investment.

“For more than 25 years, our manufacturing experience in South Carolina has been enriched by the numerous resources offered by the Palmetto State. We’ve benefited from a well-trained and passionate workforce, easy access to quality transportation, and the state’s keen focus on helping businesses succeed.”

Michael Fanning
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Michelin, North America

Business Tax Structure and Financial Incentives

Our probusiness attitude is reflected by our stable business tax structure and an unparalleled list of tax credits and investment incentives:

- Maintaining a 5 percent corporate income tax rate—South Carolina has the lowest income tax rate in the Southeastern United States;
- Preventing a general tax increase—According to the Tax Foundation, South Carolina has the seventh lowest per capita tax burden in the United States and in addition to the low tax rates, has actually decreased taxes for industry and individuals; and
- Maintaining consistently affordable insurance costs for accidents on the job (Workers' Compensation) and unemployment—South Carolina has one of the lowest Workers' Compensation rates in the United States.

Tax liability for companies operating in South Carolina includes the following:

- *Corporate Income Tax:* Companies pay a state corporate income tax on income allocated to South Carolina operations (interest, dividends, royalties, rents, property sale gains and losses, and personal services income) and income apportioned to the operations (based on weighted payroll, property, and sales factors). A 5 percent corporate income tax rate is applied to the sum of these incomes, and the resulting figure is a company's state corporate income tax.
- *Corporate Franchise Tax and License Fee:* All companies must pay an annual state corporate franchise tax. The rate is one mill (\$0.001) per dollar of a proportion of total paid-in-capital and paid-in-surplus (earned surplus is not included), plus an annual \$15 license fee. For multi-state corporations, the license fee is determined by apportionment in the same manner employed in computing apportioned corporate income.
- *Property Tax:* Taxes on real property (land and buildings) and personal property (machinery and equipment) for manufacturers are only levied by the local (county and/or city) government. Personal property is allowed to depreciate annually (beginning in year 1) at a rate established by state law. Generally, this rate is 11 percent per year and is depreciated to a residual level of 10 percent of the original property value. Real and personal property are assessed at 10.5 percent of fair market value. A local millage rate is applied to the assessed value of all property to determine the value of the tax. Millage rates are determined annually by local governments and are comprised of a school operating portion (approximately 67 percent) and a county operating portion (approximately 33 percent).

- **Sales Tax:** South Carolina utilizes a state tax on sales and use of 5 percent. Some counties (by approval of a majority of county voters) assess an additional 1 percent local option sales tax. However, this amount is offset by a state mandated credit to real property taxes.

Some of the key elements of the state's incentive program that reward firms for investing in South Carolina and reduce tax liability include the following:

Corporate Income Tax Credits

- Tax credits for new job creation;
- Tax credits for corporate headquarters facilities;
- Tax credits for providing child care benefits;
- Tax credits for research and development expenditures;
- Tax credits for investments in new production machinery in the 27 counties considered *Economic Impact Zones*;

Exemptions and Incentives Against Property Tax

- No tax on inventory, intangibles, or pollution control equipment;
- Five-year abatement of the county operating portion of property tax (lowers the millage rate by approximately 33 percent by removing the county operating portion of the rate for five years);
- Opportunity to negotiate with the county for a fee-in-lieu of property taxes (With a minimum \$5 million capital investment, a county can substitute a 20-year fee schedule with a reduced assessment rate in place of standard property tax payments);

Exemptions from Sales Tax

- Sales tax exemption on manufacturing equipment and electricity;
- Sales tax exemption on research and development equipment;
- No value added taxes;
- No wholesale sales tax; and
- No tax on packaging materials.

Regulatory Climate

South Carolina offers European companies a regulatory climate that speeds the processing of necessary permits, reducing delays in start-up. The South Carolina Department of Commerce and local development authorities serve as valuable resources for new and expanding companies seeking information about environmental, building, and operating permits.

Environmental Permits

Environmental issues in South Carolina are administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). DHEC works cooperatively with business in South Carolina to assist economic development in the state while maintaining a safe environment. This cooperative relationship between DHEC and business is demonstrated in the fact that less than 1 percent of all environmental permits applied for in South Carolina are challenged.

DHEC oversees all state and federal permits issued in South Carolina, having been granted federal oversight responsibilities for implementing United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations and compliance procedures. This situation allows South Carolina businesses to work with local agents concerning most environmental issues. DHEC is aware of the importance of new industry to the state and gives priority to the review of new facilities thus reducing turnaround time for issuance of new permits.

Permitting fees, both initial and maintenance, are lower than those in most states and are often site specific. Local and regional agencies in South Carolina have not enacted local environmental compliance or permitting requirements, with the exception of the standard local wastewater system use ordinances. South Carolina has no state law requiring the preparation of environmental impact statements.

“For a medium-sized company like Friedrichs & Rath, an investment overseas means a big challenge. But, we believe that . . . the great location in South Carolina and the support from all levels of government can limit the risk and can maximize our chances for growth.”

**Dr. Stefan Rath
Friedrichs & Rath GmbH
Exertal, Germany**

Building and Operating Permits

Building and operating permits are the responsibility of the local governmental entity (county and/or municipality). This information is available from the local planning department and/or building inspector. Several counties within South Carolina have a “one stop” permitting system, where all necessary permits can

be obtained at the same time. Costs for building and operating permits vary depending on location.

Service for the Life of the Investment

South Carolina believes that supporting the growth of existing businesses is the true measure of a business friendly state. Through the Business Solutions Division of the Department of Commerce, South Carolina provides service for the life of the investment with two programs that help our companies grow: International Trade Development and Recycling Market Development.

The International Trade Development group assists South Carolina companies in finding new customers in overseas markets. The state understands that locating quality foreign prospects is the number one ingredient in a company's success in international trade. The available services include buyer/supplier networking, on-site sales representation, dissemination of trade leads, and coordination of trade shows and missions.

The Recycling Market Development group works to stimulate growth among the state's recycling businesses through policy/legislative initiatives and recycling business development activities. They also provide leads on ways South Carolina companies can dispose of source waste materials.

QUALITY OF LIFE

European and Southern Cultures Side-by-Side in South Carolina: Familiar Experiences Across the Atlantic Ocean

The sense of community among South Carolina's resident Europeans is remarkable. While approximately 400 European firms are dispersed around the state, there are several areas with notable concentrations. For example, the Greenville-Spartanburg area in the Upstate hosts a large number and great diversity of European cultural attributes and services. The following are examples of familiar cultural activities and supportive services which create a link to Europe and assist European residents and transferees.



- *Alliance Francaise du Piedmont* is a bi-cultural organization for French-speaking people in the Upstate. The group's members join together for cultural and social events, including ethnic food and music.
- The *German America Club of Greenville* is a non-political social club that meets monthly to celebrate German music and traditions.
- *Swiss-America Society of the Piedmont* is a 30-year-old social organization open to Swiss nationals and friends of Switzerland. The organization meets regularly for social and recreational events, including the annual National Day Celebration on August 1.
- *Western Carolinas Association of America Scandinavian Foundation* is a non-profit social organization that holds social, cultural, and diplomatic events, films, and lectures. The group gives annual scholarships for students to attend language camp to learn the Scandinavian culture, language, and customs.
- German Oktoberfest celebrations are held annually in these South Carolina cities—Columbia, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, Newberry, Spartanburg, and Walhalla.
- The annual Worldfest celebration in Charleston includes the Panorama de France, an array of French-language films.

- For over 30 years, the *Charleston Scottish Society* has sponsored the annual Scottish Games and Highlands Gathering at Boone Hall Plantation.
- Through the Sister Cities International program, the following South Carolina cities enjoy close relationships with “sister” European cities: Charleston and Spoleto, Italy; Greenville and Kortrijk, Belgium; Greenville and Bergamo, Italy; and Myrtle Beach and Keighley, England.
- South Carolina also enjoys sister-state partnerships with two German states—Brandenburg and Rheinland-Palatinate.



SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Historic houses lining Charleston's famous Battery face Fort Sumter in the distant harbor where the Civil War began.

European Education

As the number of Europeans living in South Carolina increases, so does the demand for specialized education programs for Europeans. With the support of European firms located in the state, South Carolina currently hosts schools for French and German students.

- The *Michelin French School*, which began in Greenville in 1973, is open to children of French expatriates employed by Michelin. Other native-speaking French students who wish to follow a French curriculum are accepted as space permits. The school is designed to model the French school system so that students returning to France can continue their studies on schedule and be prepared to pass the national exams.
- *Die Deutsche Schule Spartanburg* is a privately funded school in the Upstate for children ages 4-17. The school, which opened in 1996, operates on Saturdays and offers a curriculum developed with guidelines set by the German Ministry of Education. In addition to language classes, students learn about the culture of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

In addition, the *Agape English Language Institute for Internationals*, located in Greenville and Columbia, and the *Inlingua Language and Intercultural Services*, located in Greenville, offer educational programs for adults. Foreign executives and local businessmen take classes in language and cultural training to prepare them for work assignments either in the United States or another country.

Leisure—Recreation, Arts, & Entertainment

The cultural diversity that South Carolina's European residents bring to the state is complemented by a host of leisure activities, including arts, entertainment, and recreation that define the many dimensions of South Carolina. The state's varied landscape is a backdrop for diverse activities.

Recreation

South Carolina's geography is defined by the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean—from higher elevations ranging between 300 meters to 1,000 meters (1,000 feet to 3,500 feet) in the foothills, to sub-tropical conditions along 320 kilometers (200 miles) of Atlantic coast. With such a diverse topography and a temperate climate, South Carolina invites year-round, outdoor activities.

South Carolina's water resources offer recreational activities from kayaking and rafting on whitewater rivers; to fishing and boating on lakes; to blue water sailing and deep sea fishing. In addition to the Atlantic coast, 2,160 square kilometers (830 square miles) of the state are covered by water, including 10 main rivers and 3 main lakes. Lakes Marion, Moultrie, and Murray together encompass 88,400 hectares (221,000 acres) of water surface and are all man-made lakes built to furnish power for hydro-electric plants. Lake Murray in the center of the state boasts the 2nd largest earthen dam in the world.



SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

The Chattooga River in the Upstate offers whitewater rafting, as well as canoeing and kayaking.



SC Dept. of Natural Resources

The Edisto River in the Lowcountry, the longest black water river in the world, is a popular fishing location.

Hiking, camping, and backpacking opportunities abound in South Carolina. The 480-kilometer (300-mile) Palmetto Trail spans the state from the northwest mountains to the seacoast village of McClellanville, north of Charleston. Dozens of state and national forests and parks, along with wildlife refuges and preserves, are located throughout South Carolina, offering unique experiences for outdoor enthusiasts. The temperate climate also supports year-round natural beauty found at such places as Middleton Place near Charleston, the home of America's oldest formal gardens, and Brookgreen Gardens near Murrells Inlet, the world's largest collection of outdoor sculptures nestled among 2,000 species of plants.



SC Dept. of Natural Resources

Whitewater Falls, located in the Upstate on South Carolina's border with North Carolina, is the highest waterfall in eastern North America.

Arts & Culture

Steeped in Southern history and American heritage, South Carolina's historic communities reflect a rich past that is evident in many different ways. Celebrating the past or celebrating the present, South Carolina's smaller communities and metropolitan areas support a host of artistic and cultural events. Among the most noted event is Charleston's internationally acclaimed Spoleto Festival. For two weeks each year, artists and patrons from around the world convene in Charleston to present and view avant-garde theater productions, studio art in various media, and musical and operatic presentations.

In addition to Spoleto, there are numerous other local festivals that occur across the state throughout the year, presenting such international artists and events as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Vienna Boys' Choir, David Parson's Dance Company, "Les Miserables," and Shakespeare Festivals. Performing arts centers are located in most of South Carolina's larger cities, such as the Koger Center in Columbia, the Opera House in Newberry, and the Peace Center in Greenville. In fact, Charleston's Dock Street Theatre, still in operation today, was the first permanent structure erected in the original 13 colonies solely for theatrical performances.

FACT: David Stahl, head of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, is also the music director and Chief Conductor of the Bavarian Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich, Germany.

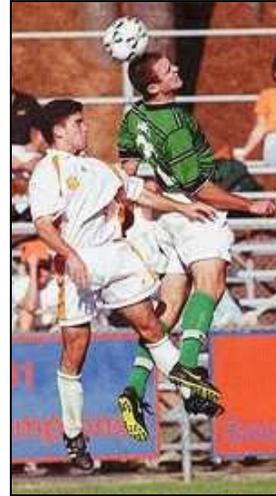
Because important Revolutionary and Civil War battles were fought in South Carolina, even celebrating history has become an art form. Thousands of people participate in living history demonstrations, from military reenactments to demonstrations of plantation life. Architecture is a subject of celebration as well,

and dozens of tours of public and private dwellings throughout the state reveal some of America's oldest and most beautiful buildings.

Sporting Events

Sports are a prominent feature in South Carolina's quality of life; spectators enjoy a wide variety of events, from high school football to professional hockey. The state's grade schools and colleges offer seasonal sports opportunities for their athletes as well as cheering fans. Each year, the impressive list of sporting events held in South Carolina and neighboring states grows:

- Minor league baseball in Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville, SC;
- Professional basketball in Atlanta, GA (Atlanta Hawks);
- Professional football in Atlanta, GA (Atlanta Falcons) and Charlotte, NC (Carolina Panthers);
- College football, baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, volleyball, golf, etc.;
- East Coast hockey league teams in Charlotte, NC, and Charleston, Columbia, Florence, and Greenville, SC;
- A Professional A-League soccer team in Charleston, SC (The Battery) and professional soccer clubs throughout the state;
- Professional golf in Augusta, GA (The Masters) and Hilton Head, SC (MCI Classic);
- Professional tennis in Charleston, SC (Family Circle Cup and U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships);
- International Steeplechase in Camden, SC (Carolina and Colonial Cup races); and
- Busch and Winston Cup series stock car racing in Charlotte, NC, and Darlington and Myrtle Beach, SC.



Clemson University

In addition to soccer programs at the grade school and college level, South Carolina is home to several professional teams.