

# GREER DEVELOPMENTS



## Upcoming Events

April 8– Chamber’s Community Commerce Convention

April 17– Volunteer Greer Day

April 21 & 28– Lunchtime Live at Greer City Park

May 5, 12, 19, 26– Lunchtime Live at Greer City Park

May 13-16– BMW Pro-Am

May 27– GDC Board Meeting

May 31– Memorial Day, GDC Office Closed

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## Tire and Wheel Assembly Company Will Bring Jobs to Greer

A Florida-based company that will provide tire and wheel assembly for BMW’s next generation of the X3 sports activity vehicle is investing \$9 million to launch its site here and will bring about 50 contract jobs, at first, with an eye to an additional 100 in the future.

Asra/CFX already is testing product and systems at its location, 154 Metro Court off South Buncombe Road, and expects equipment installation to be complete by the end of July, according to company’s president, Tom Przybojewski.

“Based on the complexity of BMW’s product line, we had to have a very sophisticated system to meet their demands, and we did it via, really, some world-class automation,” Przybo-

jewski said. “We have robots that are coming from the Texas area that we’re going to be employing heavily.”

BMW Manufacturing Corp. is undergoing a \$750 million expansion, which includes construction of a second assembly facility and expansion of its paint shop. Production of the X3 based in Austria will move to the Greer plant. The X5 sports activity vehicle and the X6 sports activity coupe also are produced at the Greer plant.

“I still can’t comment on the timing yet, but we’re doing pretty well with moving right along,” BMW spokesman Max Metcalf said. “CFX is coming to do the tire and wheel assembly for the X3.”

Reno Deaton, executive director of the

Greer Development Corporation, told the Greenville News that “the decision of Astra Logistics to locate in the Metro Court Industrial Park is a big win for the Greer community and Greenville County. They have an outstanding management team and are investing in state-of-the-art processes and equipment.

The Ft. Lauderdale-based company is a third party logistics supply chain and heavy assembly provider. Przybojewski said the company’s first priority is to expand at the site doing work for BMW, and also is looking to expand services to other, such as the military.

Nan Lundeen, Greenville Online. 3/11/10

## American Truetzschler Inc. Announces Expansion in Greer

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – February 16, 2010 – The South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Greenville Area Development Corporation and the Greer Development Corporation today announced that American Truetzschler Inc. will expand its operations into Greenville County, as the result of the acquisition of the Hollingsworth company assets. The \$3.5 million investment is expected to generate 30 new jobs.

“Our operations in Greer are an important part of our company’s total manufacturing capacity, and we are pleased to expand our production capabilities with a facility there. South Carolina will provide us with an excellent business environment and a skilled workforce to suit our needs. We are pleased to move forward with our operations in South Carolina’s Upstate,” said Detlef Jaekel, vice president of the Technical Division at American Truetzschler.

American Truetzschler Inc., a subsidiary of Trützschler Group, acquired production facilities and intellectual property last year from now-defunct John D. Hollingsworth on Wheels Inc. The company will use the acquired equipment in its new facility, and intends to continue the former company’s production program.

The company has also taken on former Hollingsworth employees, including those in field service and sales and

marketing. The investment will allow the company to expand its textile machinery and card clothing manufacturing operations. American Truetzschler will immediately begin adding equipment to the facility, which is located at 1704 Poplar Drive Ext. in Greer.

“American Truetzschler is a major manufacturer of machinery for spinning preparation and nonwovens, and their investment in South Carolina enhances the state’s advanced manufacturing industry. Today’s announcement is also a positive indication that our state’s business-friendly climate, skilled workforce and strong market access are working to attract new investment and job opportunities. As the market rebounds, we believe that American Truetzschler’s acquisition of these operations will make the facilities stronger and better positioned for future growth. We congratulate American Truetzschler on their investment in South Carolina and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with them in the years ahead,” said Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce.

“American Truetzschler is a great company with international business connections,” said Butch Kirven, chairman of Greenville County Council and GADC Board member. “Their decision to expand their operations in Greenville County is evidence that specialty textile manufacturing can thrive here. We’re

proud to be able to help this company and others enjoy the benefits of doing business here.”

“We are truly grateful for the investment that American Truetzschler will make in our community and the new jobs they plan to create,” said Wryley Bettis, Greer City Councilman and Chairman of the Greer Development Corporation. “We believe that Greer is a special place, and we cannot imagine having a better partner than a company like American Truetzschler to help this community to continue to grow.”

The company is currently hiring for the positions. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should contact the company by phone at 704-399-4521, by fax at 704-399-4525 or by mail at American Truetzschler Inc., Attn: Plant Manager, PO Box 669228, Charlotte, NC 28266.

American Truetzschler Inc., part of the Truetzschler Group, was founded in 1969 to cover the important markets of the United States and Canada. American Truetzschler, headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, has over 120 employees and produces a considerable part of the Truetzschler product range. For more information about the company, please visit [www.truetzschler.eu/american-truetzschler/](http://www.truetzschler.eu/american-truetzschler/).

**2008 GDC**

**Board of Directors**

Wryley Bettis (*Chairman*)  
 Edward Driggers  
 Gene Gibson  
 Ken Harper  
 Dennis Hennett (*V Chair*)  
 Jeff Howell  
 Nick Stegall  
 Larry Wilson

**GDC Staff**

Reno Deaton  
 Angela Rutland  
 Elizabeth Adams

**GDC Services**

- Data on available real estate
- Information on taxes, incentives, financing and business assistance programs
- Statistical data on Greer marketplace
- Introductions to community resources
- Site selection & community tours
- GIS mapping

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**GREER AREA REAL ESTATE PROFILE**

**125 CALIBER RIDGE ROAD**

**LOCATION:** 125 Caliber Ridge Road  
**COMMUNITY:** Greer  
**COUNTY:** Spartanburg  
**AREA:** 0 Office Square Feet  
 0 Mfg/Whse. Square Feet  
**81,000 Total Square Feet**  
**YEAR BUILT:** 2008  
**CONDITION:** Excellent  
**CONSTRUCTION:** **Floor:** Concrete Floor  
**Thickness:** 6"  
**Walls:** Concrete Tilt Panels  
**Columns:** Tube Columns  
**Spacing:** 50'x45'  
**Roof:** TPO  
**CEILING HEIGHT:** **Eaves:**  
**Center:** 28'  
**LIGHTING:** 400 Watt Metal Halide  
**HEAT:** Unit heaters with natural gas  
**AIR CONDITIONING:** Office  
**SPRINKLER:** 100% ESFR  
**TRUCK DOCKS:** 20  
**DRIVE-IN DOORS:** 1

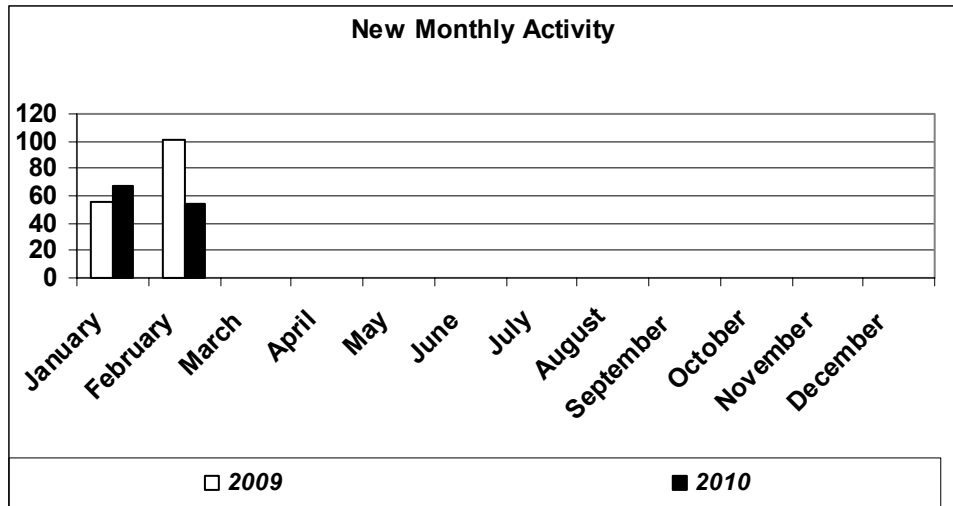


**SALE PRICE:** For Lease Only  
**LEASE PRICE:** \$3.95-\$4.50/sf, \$5.00/sf of TI available  
**DATE AVAILABLE:** Immediately  
**AGENT:** Marcus Cornelius

864-370-8192

Information on this property, and others in the Greer area, is available at [www.greerdevelopment.com](http://www.greerdevelopment.com) or by contacting the Greer Development Corp. at (864) 416-0125.

**GDC New Monthly Activity**



### Greer News

- Mommy and Me Resale Opens in Greer
- Kids R Kids Celebrated 1 year in Greer
- GSA's Boxcar Public Art Project Launched
- American Truetzschler Expands to Greer
- Esther's Closet Opened in Greer



**If you would like to subscribe to our weekly Top 3 Reasons To Visit Greer email, please send your email address to [eadams@greerdevelopment.com](mailto:eadams@greerdevelopment.com)**

## Apprenticeship Carolina helps Companies Close the Skills Gap

A relatively new workforce development program in South Carolina is helping bridge the gap between employee skills and employer demands.

Apprenticeship Carolina, established by the South Carolina Technical College System with the support of the General Assembly in 2007, connects employers across the state with the information and technical assistance they need to create registered apprenticeship programs. Registered apprenticeships are defined as formalized by the US Department of Labor as meeting national training standards.

In an apprenticeship, an employee goes through documented, systematic on-the-job training, provided by an employer and customized to job-specific needs. Often, the training is supported by technical college coursework that reinforces the theory behind the technical skills.

Apprenticeship Carolina Director, Ann Marie Stieritz, notes that apprenticeships create a "win-win" opportunity for employees and employers.

"Different from internships, apprenticeships are career pathways. Apprenticeships are full employees of the company," she explains. "For employers, there is a scalable wage component, meaning that if there is a lower skill level, the apprentice won't make as much as other employees. This provides a cost offset for employers investing in employees who will not immediately be performing at full capacity. As the apprentice gains skills, he or she gets incremental wage increases, which keeps an employee engaged and builds loyalty."

For employers, registered apprenticeships provide the opportunity to tap into state and federal resources that can assist them in developing and delivering training. Companies are able to apply industry standards to training programs to increase productivity and improve the quality of their workforce. Meanwhile, employees who participate in registered apprenticeships can earn a certification in their field that is recognized nationwide. This certification provides an incentive that can help companies attract and retain more

qualified employees.

Apprenticeship Carolina helps companies of all sizes across a huge variety of industry sectors develop apprenticeships, Stieritz notes. The program does have concentrations, however, in industry areas that are critically important to South Carolina: advanced manufacturing, construction, healthcare, energy, information technology, and tourism and hospitality.

As more companies have heard about the program and recognize its value, Apprenticeship Carolina has grown tremendously. Since July 2007, registered apprenticeships in the state have increased by 179%. Employer interest in the program has been statewide and 44 of South Carolina's 46 counties now have at least one registered apprenticeship program. All 16 of the state's technical college are helping reach out to companies to get them involved.

One reason for the popularity of the program is that it gives employers the ability to develop their employees from within and to add more structure to their on-the-job training.

"Apprenticeship Carolina has all of the resources to help a company start a well-structured apprenticeship program," says Paul Mundt, technical training supervisor at Roche Carolina, Inc in Florence. "They show you the benefits of the apprenticeship system in developing your workforce. Apprenticeships go beyond the typical on-the-job training' they give benefits to both the employer and the employee to make the training as efficient as possible. The employer gets more productivity from the apprentice and the apprentices know what is expected of them in the training process."

Many companies are reporting that by bringing new employees through the ranks of apprentice, their workforce is enhanced with better retention, decreased turnover, increased production, higher morale, and increased loyalty.

"Our company had always done a lot of training, but through Apprenticeship Carolina, our company was able to formalize our program and gain the accreditation we needed," says Rob Griffin, plant manager of US Engine Valve in Westminster, which

currently has 20 apprenticeships. "The company has also seen positive business results because of the program. We are able to do more with less and maximize uptime."

Another reason that the program is a "win" for companies is that they can reap financial benefits. For example, the South Carolina Workforce Investment Board has set aside funding to help employers in the state develop and expand apprenticeship programs. In addition, eligible businesses can receive a \$1,000 tax credit for each registered apprentice who is employed for at least seven months during each year of an apprentice's program for up to four years.

Even though other states have apprenticeship programs, Stieritz notes that having a state-level tax credit is one way South Carolina's is unique. Another distinctive feature of South Carolina's program is that it's a "marriage of education and training, enhanced by the fact that it is housed in the state's Technical College System." Stieritz says.

Along with positive benefits to companies and workers, Apprenticeship Carolina is providing economic development benefits. It is a workforce development tool that can be used by new or expanding companies. One local developer, Oconee County's Jim Alexander, says that he is working to educate his local plant managers, and some of them have begun to use the program. The financial benefit, he believes, is one of the greatest reasons the program is becoming so popular.

"One of the most important selling points of the Apprenticeship Carolina program is the fact that not only does a company have the opportunity to train their folks, they get a tax credit for doing it," Alexander says. "Now that makes it special when you can get help that doesn't drain your bill fold."

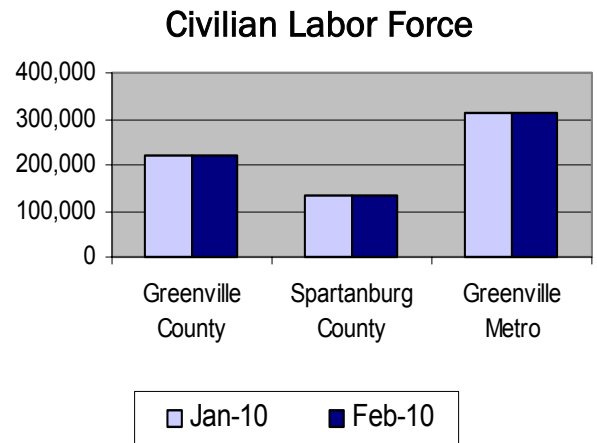
For more information, go to [www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com](http://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com).

Written by: SCEDA Voice, March 2010

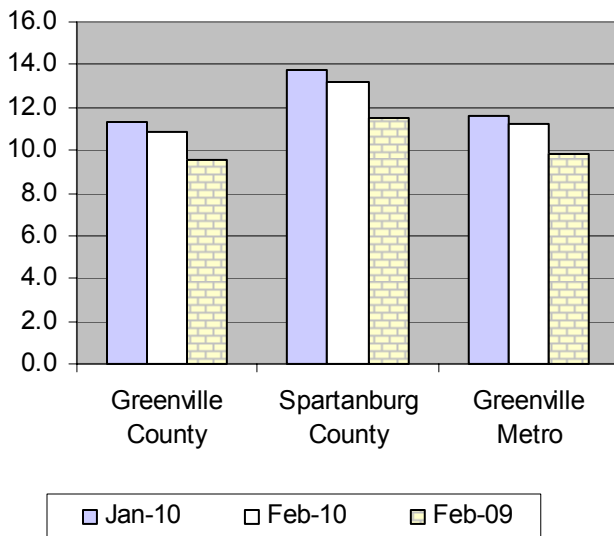
# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Civilian Labor Force			
	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Feb 2009
Greenville County	221,559	221,768	226,559
Spartanburg County	134,565	134,909	139,200
Greenville MSA	311,795	312,041	320,175

Source: SC Employment Security Commission



## Unemployment Rate Comparison



Unemployment Rates (%)			
	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Feb 09
Greenville County	11.3	10.9	9.5
Spartanburg County	13.8	13.2	11.5
Greenville Metro	11.6	11.2	9.8
South Carolina	12.6	12.5	10.7

Source: SC Employment Security Commission

## Building Permits—City of Greer

	Total 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	YTD 2010
<b>Residential -</b>				
Total Units	87	6	0	6
Total Value	\$9,000,401	\$596,225	\$0	\$596,225
<b>Commercial -</b>				
Total Units	47	4	3	7
Total Value	\$10,644,086	\$2,937,600	\$349,500	\$3,287,100

Source: City of Greer Codes Department

## Greer Residential Activity

	2006	2007
Total Homes Sold	1,467	1,333
Median Price	\$160,525	\$160,212
Average Price	\$192,924	\$204,495

Source: Greenville MLS

## Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport Activity—2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Passengers	85,445	80,293	99,284	105,355	110,569	117,632	126,018	112,434	104,144	112,060	102,955	97,560
Cargo Tons	1,526	1,437	1,505	1,537	1,512	1,618	1,619	1,588	1,737	1,791	1,654	2,302

Source: Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission