



Mark Sanford
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Secretary

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kara Borie, S.C. Dept. of Commerce, 803.737.1998

**Department of Commerce, the Economic Futures Group and the Greer Development Corporation
Announce Lear Corporation Will Expand in Spartanburg County**
Investment expected to bring 140 new jobs to the area

COLUMBIA, S.C. – September 17, 2008 – The South Carolina Department of Commerce, the Economic Futures Group of Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greer Development Corporation today announced that Lear Corporation, a leading global supplier of automotive seating, electrical distribution and electronics products, will expand its facility in Spartanburg County. The \$10.8 million investment is expected to generate 140 new jobs.

“We are pleased to move forward with an expansion at our plant in Spartanburg County to supply BMW,” said Lou Salvatore, a Lear Senior Vice President and president of Lear’s Global Seating business. “This new investment will allow us to expand the range of products made at our Duncan facility and better meet increasing customer demand. Duncan and Spartanburg County provide a great combination of a strong workforce and a positive business environment. We appreciate all the support we’ve received from state and local officials.”

Spartanburg County is ideally suited for this competitive expansion, which will include the construction of a new building in Greer that will allow Lear to increase its automotive seat production capacity. Lear is currently a Tier 1 supplier of seats to BMW and currently employs 237 people at its plant in Duncan.

“Today’s announcement is another sign that our efforts to better the economic soil conditions for businesses are working to attract new investment and grow existing industries. As well, this news signals that South Carolina’s automotive industry continues to grow and create job opportunities. We remain committed to continuing our efforts to strengthen the state’s business climate and promote economic growth throughout the state,” said Gov. Mark Sanford.

“Lear’s decision to expand its operations in Spartanburg County is a positive reflection of the strength of our workforce and pro-business environment,” said Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor. “The growth of the automotive sector in South Carolina and specifically the growth of BMW, continue to attract new investments that are resulting in more jobs for South Carolinians. Thanks to the team effort of state and local officials, Spartanburg County will benefit from this investment.”

“Lear Corporation has been a tremendous business partner for Spartanburg County and we are excited they have chosen to invest in our county again. We are constantly working with companies and businesses to bring investment and jobs that will create opportunities for Spartanburg County residents. We congratulate Lear on their success and look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship,” said David Britt, chairman of Economic Development for Spartanburg County Council and board member of the Economic Futures Group.

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“On behalf of the Greer Development Corporation, we welcome Lear Corporation to Greer and thank them for their expansion in Spartanburg County. We are truly fortunate to have a partnership with Spartanburg County, the Economic Futures Group, the Department of Commerce and Lear Corporation that creates new development opportunities and builds our automotive cluster,” said Wryley Bettis, Chairman, Greer Development Corporation.

Lear Corporation is one of the world's largest suppliers of automotive seating systems, electrical distribution systems and electronics products. The company's world-class products are designed, engineered and manufactured by a diverse team of 91,000 employees at 215 facilities in 35 countries. Lear is headquartered in Southfield, Michigan. For more information, visit www.lear.com.

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