

Manufacturer to open plant here 25 jobs to be created initially

By John Dayberry | Hickory Daily Record

Published: September 25, 2008

HICKORY - A manufacturer of heat exchangers and heat transfer tubing will expand to Hickory, creating 25 jobs initially.

Turbotec Products, a Windsor, Conn.-based company, will begin operations in January of a fabrication division in a 20,000-square-foot existing building in the CrossPoint Business Park at 914 25th St., SE.

Turbotec expects to hire 25 people, mostly manufacturing production employees, in the next few months, said Julie Pruett, director of business recruitment for the Catawba County Economic Development Corp.

The EDC, which coordinated N.C. state tax credits for the company as well as training grants through the N.C. Community College System, expects the Hickory operation to grow, Pruett said.

The company is eligible to receive tax credits through the state of \$125,000 for job creation. The company is also eligible to receive state-funded training through Catawba Valley Community College for the new jobs.

There were no local incentives given for the project.

Sunil Raina, president of Turbotec Products, said work force availability was a prime consideration in the company's selection of an expansion site.

"We are excited to begin our operations in North Carolina, and we feel the work force available to Turbotec will provide us with the talent required for the realization of our future growth plans," Raina said.

"In addition, the location provides Turbotec with the opportunity to better serve our customer base, especially in the South. The lower cost business environment was also a critical part of our decision-making process."

Company: Turbotec Products

Type: Manufacturer of heat exchangers and heat transfer tubing

Opening: 20,000-square-foot plant in southeast Hickory

Hiring: 25 people initially

Apply at: The company's Web site at www.turbotecproducts.com or contact the N.C. Employment Security Commission at 466-5535 or Catawba County JobLink Center at 324-5650

Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright applauded Turbotec's decision to expand here.

He cited positive developments currently under way in the county, including:

- Convergys Corp. has begun the hiring process for its new call center in southeast Hickory. The company expects to fill about 200 positions at the call center by the end of this year. The center is expected to employ about 450 people by 2011.
- Williams-Sonoma Inc. is hiring workers for its new upholstered furniture operations in Hickory. The company expects to create 820 jobs in the next three years.
- The new Target distribution center near Newton is set to open next year. The facility will create at least 400 jobs, probably hundreds more.

"We believe this is our year, and the coming years will be our years for economic development in Hickory and Catawba County," Wright said.

Turbotec employs about 100 people in Connecticut. The company has more than 35 years of experience in heat exchanger technology.

Its products are supplied to manufacturers for use in a wide variety of heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration applications.