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News

Michelin Announces Expansion Of Earthmover Tire Facility

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COLUMBIA, S.C. - Michelin North America, Inc. today announced it would expand its earthmover tire facility in South Carolina, which opened in 1998. S.C. Gov. Jim Hodges, Charles S. Way, Jr., Secretary of Commerce, S.C. Department of Commerce, and the Honorable William "Bill" Banning joined Michelin officials for remarks at the State House Rotunda and a photo opportunity with earthmover tires en route to a customer.

"This is a fine day for Michelin and South Carolina," said Jim Micali, chairman and president, Michelin North America. "We are proud to celebrate the expansion of our earthmover tire facility and to solidify our commitment to South Carolina, where we have invested more than \$2 billion to date." Added Dick Wilkerson, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Michelin North America Earthmover Tire Division, "This investment will better enable us to serve our customers, not only in North America but in other parts of the world." "South Carolina's partnership with Michelin grows stronger with each financial commitment and each job created.

"We are excited that Michelin is making an investment of up to \$200 million and 200 jobs," said Gov. Jim Hodges "That demonstrates a real trust in our state's economy and our workforce. I am also proud that Michelin earthmover tires made here in the Palmetto State will help serve quarries, mines and construction sites around the world."

"With about 10,000 employees in the state, the impact Michelin has made on South Carolina's economic foundation is unsurpassed," said Secretary Way. "Our state is fortunate to have Michelin as a dedicated member of Team South Carolina that utilizes our workforce and is a major partner with our technical college program. We congratulate them on today's announcement."

"We are thrilled that Michelin has once again chosen Lexington County for its business needs and pleased that our community has the right mix of workforce and quality of life to support its efforts," said William "Bill" Banning, chairman, Lexington County Council Economic Development Committee. "Michelin has been a supportive, involved corporate citizen from the beginning and we welcome this addition to its Lexington base of operations."

Michelin manufactures and sells tires for every type of vehicle, including airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, earthmovers, farm equipment, heavy-duty trucks, motorcycles and the space shuttle. The company also publishes travel guides, maps and atlases covering Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. Headquartered in Greenville, S.C., Michelin North America (www.michelin.com) employs 26,500 and operates 23 plants in 19 locations.

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