

2AM Group Bringing Jobs to the Upstate

July 6, 2006 – 2AM Group, a quality-control engineering and assembly company, is opening its doors Monday in Duncan with more than 20 employees and expects to have about 45 employees by the end of the year, according to company officials. “Within two years, 2AM, which stands for Automotive, Aerospace and Marine, expects to employ about 100 people in its 150,000 square foot facility in the Commerce Industrial Park on State 290”, said Artie Perry, the company’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

“Although the company is based in Spartanburg County, it’s an important addition for Greenville County”, said Dean Jones, Administrator of the Greenville County Workforce Development Office. “Workers from Greenville, Anderson, Cherokee and Union counties are likely to work at the new facility”, he said. Many people commute 40 to 60 minutes for viable jobs. “In economic development, there are no boundaries. A person will cross county lines for a job”, Jones said. He said he expects economic development to become regionally based rather than county based. Jones defined the region surrounding Greenville as the Interstate 85 corridor toward Charlotte and Atlanta as well as Western North Carolina. Proximity and transportation arteries tie the region together. Perry said that 2AM Group was founded in March because he felt there was a missing level of service. The company is an answer to a need he found in the manufacturing community. The company will be involved in both the assessment of manufacturing production and other processes and the repair of any systems that need it. “We want to stay around and fix the problem”, he said.

Although the company will work with manufacturing in general, it is starting with automotive, aerospace and marine manufacturers initially because they use much of the same technology in their processes, Perry said. “2AM Group will strive to be a different type industry service group by tackling the more complex technical issues in the manufacturing support field while providing manufacturing and assembly resources to clients at the same time”, he said.

A Perry & Company, the parent company of 2AM, is an executive consulting and site selection firm based in Spartanburg since 2001. Perry, a native of South Carolina, has lived in all sections of the State. He worked with Governor Carroll Campbell on the recruitment of BMW to the Upstate, he said, and then worked with Zeuna Starerker and Draexlmaier.

His new company has two private investors – Hugh McColl, former Chairman of Bank of America, and John Mack, Chairman of Morgan Stanley. No investment figures are now being released. Perry said that he has a multi-year contract with BMW Manufacturing Company for technical, engineering and inspection services. He also is working with Draexlmaier, Lear and Lemforder.

He said he is hiring engineers, team leaders, inspectors and assembly line workers. Anyone interested can contact the company at info@2AMGroup.com or visit the Spartanburg Job Services office. Perry is looking for people who want to make a difference, who are driven. They need to be technically oriented but do not necessarily have to have technical degrees. Automotive manufacturing experience is a plus. “If you want to be a good service support company, you have to be able to do the things your customers do”, Perry said. That means his employees will have to troubleshoot creatively as well as be able to work on an assembly line. “We have to be diverse” he

said.

David Britt, Chairman of Spartanburg County Council's Economic Development Committee said, "Expanding our existing industry base to create new local company that offer opportunity and growth to the citizens here are the most cherished of all investments. It is great to see how second generation businesses in the automotive sector are now becoming part of our culture here".