

Revvng Engines: All Systems Are Go in Greenville, South Carolina

Greenville downtown is walker friendly and scenic

All Photos Courtesy of GADC

By Sam Patrick

Here, they build things well. Here, complex and cutting-edge are created safely and efficiently.

Here, they build German high-performance vehicles. F-16 fighter jets for the world. Nutraceuticals for Europe. Performance tires for 170 countries. Here, they create engineering marvels for Down Under and medicines for rural America.

Here you'll find dozens of Fortune 500 companies alongside even more headquarter operations that call the community home. Advanced manufacturers including Michelin North America, BMW, Lockheed Martin, GE Power and Bosch. Nationally-recognized health systems. A highly-rated medical school. Over 20 colleges and universities. Leading brands in technology, life sciences, financial services, engineering and construction.

HERE IS GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

In Greenville – the business epicenter of South Carolina – a decades-long appeal to foreign companies is just one part of the community's success story. Home to over 100 firms from 22 countries, Greenville also claims hundreds of top domestic companies as corporate residents, plus a remarkable presence of supply chain partners and support organizations.

It all adds up to why, in recent national rankings of Top Metros with populations between 200,000 and 1 million, Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin again ranked No. 1 for total projects. The ranking's editors credited Greenville's consistent and strong job growth, robust capital investment, talented workforce, cost of doing business, and new strategic economic development plan.

In 2022, Greenville Area Development Corporation (GADC) CEO Mark Farris announced 2,326 new jobs and \$470 million in capital investment from 22 projects, pushing GADC totals over 35,000 new jobs and nearly \$7 billion in investment benefiting the community.

“Continued capital investment adds to our community’s economic vitality, diversity and tax base. The announced jobs, with wages well above both county and state averages, portend a bright future. Raising per capita income is always a primary metric for us,” said Farris.

The pull of Greenville is strong as companies seek the right balance of quality of life, lower operational costs, talent and strategic location to optimize performance. A national leader in automotive engineering and manufacturing, Greenville also places emphasis on attracting companies in advanced materials, aviation/aerospace, life sciences, and professional/technology services. The focused clusters create mini-ecosystems unto themselves – attracting more companies and talent.



The resulting economy is diversified, robust and multi-faceted. Of equal importance is that much of Greenville's growth comes from existing industry, indicating soil conditions for success are strong.

Credit for the community's success also is attributed to the visionary mindset, a belief in public-private partnership, and intentional investment in the acclaimed downtowns of Greenville,

Ribbon Cutting of new F-16 production line in Greenville, SC



Made in Greenville: Lockheed Martin Celebrates New F-16 Production Line in South Carolina

Greer, Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest. Emphasis on preserving green space and outdoor activities provides beauty and enjoyment, enhancing community pride and appeal.

A deep supply of business and industrial campuses, headlined by the acclaimed Class A Fox Hill Business Park, along with a healthy level of commercial and retail space beckons companies to consider Greenville County – whether building for the future or seeking to set up operations rapidly.

A commitment to developing workforce is evidenced by the engineering-focused curricula and state-of-the-art facilities at AJ Whittenburg Elementary School of Engineering, Fisher Middle School and the new Fountain Inn High. The renowned Greenville Technical College Center for Manufacturing Innovation provides students tools to succeed in advanced manufacturing, while Clemson University’s International Center for Automotive Research is an advanced-technology research campus where education, research, and industry collaborate for global benefit.

Other area assets—including GSP International Airport; the Inland Port in Greer; a blossoming innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem; and an acclaimed technical college system—enhance the attractiveness to business.

And the good news continues to roll in. Growth and investment by emerging life science brands like Kiyatec and Erchonina. Major

Lockheed Martin F-16 Block 70



GE turbine rotor produced in Greenville, SC

expansions by BMW Manufacturing and Lockheed Martin. New operations for Garver Engineering and Dash EV. New North American headquarters for Sage Parts and Paxton Access. An emerging billion-dollar redevelopment just off downtown adds another exciting chapter to the future of Greenville.

“Hard work and planning for a brighter future are what makes it work,” says Farris.

“There are a lot of outstanding companies and great people here, and they are very comfortable offering advice, a helping hand, sharing an idea or making an introduction,” said Farris. “We compete fiercely, but we work together. Despite all the success we’ve had, I am convinced that we are just getting started on a new and exciting chapter of success for Greenville County.”

“We’re just starting to rev our engines.” 