



RICHMOND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELLERBE, NC – November 9 – Richmond County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kenneth Robinette announced today that Richmond Specialty Yarns, a manufacturer of fiber-based yarns for the textile industry, will expand in Richmond County. The company plans to create 135 jobs and invest \$1 million during the next three years. In addition, the project will help the company retain 140 existing jobs. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund and participation by the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.

Richmond Yarns Inc. is a fiber-based yarn company with its headquarters and manufacturing facility in Ellerbe. FilSpec Inc., a yarn-spinning company based in Canada with clients worldwide, has purchased a controlling interest in Richmond Yarns, which will be renamed and expand operations at its Ellerbe site to serve new markets.

The new company, Richmond Specialty Yarns LLC, will produce specialized yarns from fibers and fiber blends to serve the military, medical, protective wear, marine, upholstered furniture and other markets. Salaries for the 135 new jobs will vary by job function, but the overall annual average wage will be \$25,931, not including benefits.

“For FilSpec, North Carolina was the best choice because of the very good relationship we already have with Richmond Yarns Inc. as a supplier, because of their available manufacturing capacity and because of the quality and stability of the workforce already in place,” FilSpec CEO Jean Parenteau said.

“It is good news that the Ken and Kenny Goodman were able to work out a deal with FilSpec, Inc to save the existing jobs and create additional jobs in the future. I know they went to great personal lengths to keep this plant open and save these jobs, and we appreciate it. We are glad that the Board of Commissioners was able to assist with making this project work,” said Richmond County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kenneth Robinette.

Commissioner Paul Wilson, Jr. stated, “It is good news that we are able to work together with the companies and the State of North Carolina to save these textile jobs. With so many textile jobs going overseas, it is exciting that we have the opportunity for additional growth at this plant.”

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible were the State of North Carolina and the N.C. Department of Commerce.