



GLOBAL CAROLINA
CONNECTIONS

2013 **Global Business Conference**
on International Investment in the Carolinas

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 | 11:30AM – 6:00PM | IT-oLogy Building



TITLE SPONSORS

**GLOBAL CAROLINA
COMMUNICATIONS**

PARKER POE

RÖDL & PARTNER

PLATINUM SPONSORS

**CRAILAR
TECHNOLOGIES
DRIVE AUTOMOTIVE**

**FGP INTERNATIONAL
PRYSMIAN GROUP**

**TD BANK
WALBRIDGE**

GOLD SPONSOR

FN MANUFACTURING

SILVER SPONSORS

**BLG LOGISTICS
DACHSER**

**HENGST AUTOMOTIVE
INNOVISTA**

**RHYTHMLINK
INTERNATIONAL
TIGGES**

PARTNERS

**AMERICAN-ISRAEL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA
COLUMBIA
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
ECI FIND NEW MARKETS**

**FRENCH AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GERMAN AMERICAN
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
ITALIAN TRADE COMMISSION**

**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SOUTH CAROLINA-ISRAEL
COLLABORATION**

AGENDA

11:30AM-12:30PM

GET CONNECTED – Registration, Networking and Expo

SPONSORED BY: **CRAILAR**

12:30-1:00PM

COLUMBIA CONNECTIONS – Welcome and General Session

The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor, City of Columbia

1:00-1:30PM

CAROLINA CONNECTIONS

Ms. Sabine Lang, Keynote Speaker

Lang-Mekra North America

Lang-Mekra's South Carolina Story:

Taking the Ideal and Making it Real in the Global Market

The Carolinas' successes in global business are found not only in the big-name companies. Behind each of these companies are thousands of smaller success stories. From the specialized suppliers that keep the global OEMs running smoothly to the government and economic development groups that help coordinate the deals to the academic institutions that provide the workforce to the service providers that manage the legal and financial details, a small army of “behind-the-scene” forces connects and collaborates to make the Carolinas a hub for international investment. In her keynote address, Lang-Mekra CEO Sabine Lang celebrates the international investment and business successes of the Carolinas and demonstrates how our states can continue to be leaders in global business development by “taking the ideal and making it real.”

1:30-2:30PM

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONNECTIONS

Susan Pretulak, Moderator

SPONSORED BY: **FGP INTERNATIONAL**

In this session, moderated by readySC™'s Susan Pretulak, leaders from foreign-owned and -affiliated businesses in the Carolinas discuss the challenges they faced – and continue to face – around finding, training, and retaining a highly skilled workforce. Subjects include talent recruitment, U.S. education system challenges, and competition for qualified workers.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Kirk Atkinson, Business Development Manager, BLG Logistics Group

Steve Burry, Employee Relations Project Manager, Michelin

Ralph Daetwyler, President, Max Daetwyler Corporation

Stefanie Jehlitschka, Vice President, German American Chambers of Commerce

Brad Neese, Director, Apprenticeship Carolina™

2:30-2:45PM

AFTERNOON SNACK/BEVERAGE BREAK

SPONSORED BY: **TD BANK**

2:45–3:45PM

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIONS

Dr. Kent N. Gourdin, Moderator

SPONSORED BY: PRYSMIAN GROUP

In this session, moderated by the director of the College of Charleston's Global Supply Chain Program, Dr. Kent N. Gourdin, the panel will discuss the challenges global companies and their suppliers face when attempting to navigate the intricacies of global supply chains. With slowing of growth, the volatility of commodity prices, and the management of product portfolios for global expansion, supply chain management matters more than ever. A recent report suggests that only 23 percent of companies feel they can easily use the data in their organizations to determine financial outcomes. Subjects include supplier/partner recruitment and retention, supplier/partner relationship management, and planning and risk management.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Xavier Tarragó, Operations Manager, Carbures USA

Mickey Diaz, Director of Airfreight USA, Dachser

Brian D. Schulties, C.P.M., Vice President of Procurement, Prysmian Group

3:45–4:45PM

CONNECTING TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Sherry Pittinger, Moderator

SPONSORED BY: WALBRIDGE

In this session, moderated by Clemson University's Sherry Pittinger, the panel will discuss the opportunities, processes, and procedures for obtaining government contracts as a foreign-owned or -affiliated company. Many foreign companies feel excluded from U.S. government contracts, but this need not be the case. Subjects include: vendor compliance issues, Buy America provisions, and U.S. laws and regulations.

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

George Kampstra, Senior Manager, Government Relations & Business Development, MTU Detroit Diesel, Inc.

Rebecca A. Ufkes, President, UEC Electronics

Jean-Louis Vanderstraeten, President and CEO, FN Manufacturing

4:45–5:15PM

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Dirk Brown

Director, FABER Entrepreneurship Center

Clinical Assistant Professor,

Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina

5:15–6:00PM

SPONSORS' RECEPTION

SPONSORED BY: DRIVE AUTOMOTIVE

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS (IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)



THE HONORABLE STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN **Mayor, City of Columbia**

In a record turnout, Steve Benjamin was elected Mayor of Columbia in April of 2010.

He has worked very actively in community initiatives with numerous public and private organizations dating back to his years at the University of South Carolina where he served as President of the Student Government and as Student Bar Association President at the USC School of Law.

Mayor Benjamin has continued that service through the present, serving on numerous boards for nonprofit organizations such as the Columbia Urban League, Benedict College, the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and as a Founding Board Member of the Eau Claire Promise Zone. He also served as a founding member of Choose Children First.

In 1999, at age 29, Benjamin was appointed to Governor Jim Hodges' Cabinet as director of the state's second largest law enforcement agency, the Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services.

In 2009, Benjamin drew national attention by representing prominent radio host Tom Joyner and securing a pardon for Joyner's great uncles wrongfully convicted in the death of a 73-year-old Confederate veteran and executed in 1913. In a landmark decision, the South Carolina Board of Pardons and Paroles voted unanimously to grant the posthumous pardon, the first for South Carolina in a capital case.

Having taken office in July 2010, Mayor Benjamin's first term has been characterized by his firm belief in Columbia's potential and the intense focus on economic development and job creation that helped secure more than \$543 million in new investment and create over 2,300 new jobs in the midst of a national recession. Combined with the rebirth of Main Street, these accomplishments have drawn national attention and accolades including his being awarded an Aspen Rodel Fellowship, elected to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board and, most recently, being named one of The Washington Post's "2011 The Root 100 List: The 100 most influential African Americans in 2011."

In addition to his work as Mayor, Benjamin practices law with Parker, Poe, Adams, and Bernstein.

He is married to the Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, a circuit court judge in South Carolina's Fifth Judicial Circuit. The two are the proud parents of two daughters, Bethany (6) and Jordan Grace (4).



SABINE LANG
Founder, Lang-Mekra North America

Sabine Lang is a seasoned executive and entrepreneur with over 25 years of leadership experience. She possesses best-in-class capability in commercial growth initiatives, organizational development and excellence, long-term strategic planning, and creating a world-class customer care culture.

In 1994 Ms. Lang founded Lang-Mekra North America, LLC, a world class designer, manufacturer and major Tier 1 supplier of rear view vision technology to original equipment medium and heavy duty truck manufacturers, and agriculture, construction, and off-road equipment manufacturers. Subsequently, in 2003, Ms. Lang founded Mekra Tool & Mold, LLC, a manufacturer of injection molding and stamping tools and dies.

Located northeast of Columbia, South Carolina, Lang Mekra is the recognized leader in premium rear view mirror & vision systems.

Ms. Lang is currently the Chief Executive Officer for:

- Lang Mekra North America LLC
- Mekra Tool and Mold LLC
- Lang Mekra Mexico
- Lang Mekra do Brazil

As a recognized global business leader, Ms. Lang is the recipient of the 2006 Global Vision Award presented by the World Affairs Council. In 2003 she was recognized with the United Way of the Midlands Meritorious Award and designated Ambassador for Economic Development by the Honorable Jim Hodges, Governor of South Carolina in 1999.

Ms. Lang and Lang Mekra North America were awarded The International Ambassador of the Year presented by the Central Carolina Alliance Committee of 100 in 2004 and the South Carolina Manufacturer of the Year in 1999 and 2002. The Lang Mekra organizations also received the South Carolina Family Friendly Workplace Award.

Sabine Lang is serious about civic responsibility and currently serves on the MUSC Physician's Board at the Medical University of Charleston. She is an active volunteer with The United Way of the Midlands and served on the Board of Directors for South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, the EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, and the Navistar Diversity Advisory Board.

She completed a German Apprenticeship Program and earned certification in business administration. Sabine Lang is a graduate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business where she studied business and engineering and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She is also a published author in Quality Management while she was a University Assistant at the CIM Department at the Business University of Vienna.

Ms. Lang was born in Germany and holds both German and American citizenship. She currently resides in Blythewood, SC, with her family.



SUSAN PRETULAK
Vice President of Economic Development and
Workforce Competitiveness,
SC Technical College System

Susan Pretulak is the Vice President of Economic Development and Workforce Competitiveness for the SC Technical College System. She is responsible for oversight of both nationally recognized programs – readySC™ and Apprenticeship Carolina™.

readySC™ is the System's flagship training and recruiting program helping thousands of South Carolinians each year find new and better jobs. The program's customized services are an attractive incentive to businesses interested in relocating to or expanding in the state. readySC™ consistently earns South Carolina a top-five national ranking of states with the best workforce training programs.

Launched in 2007, Apprenticeship Carolina™ makes certain all employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs. Since its launch, the number of registered apprenticeship programs in the state has more than tripled, as have the total number of active apprentices.

Prior to this role, Susan served as Senior Director for readySC™ overseeing day-to-day operational and tactical aspects of all readySC™ projects in the Upstate.

Susan holds a B.A. from Gettysburg College where she graduated *magna cum laude*. She is also a graduate of the University of South Carolina's Leadership in Community College Higher Education certificate program as well as the South Carolina Economic Developers School.



DR. KENT N. GOURDIN
Professor and Director,
Global Logistics and Transportation Program,
College of Charleston

Dr. Kent N. Gourdin is a Professor and Director of the Global Logistics and Transportation Program at the College of Charleston. Prior to coming to Charleston in 1999, Dr. Gourdin spent 11 years at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and completed a 20-year career in the United States Air Force as a transportation officer. While in the service, Dr. Gourdin was stationed in Germany, Thailand, and Korea in addition to serving a temporary tour of duty in Turkey. Dr. Gourdin earned his doctorate at the University of Tennessee and has published extensively on various aspects of international transportation and logistics management. In addition, he is the author of a textbook titled *Global Logistics Management*, published by Wiley and serves as the editor of the *Defense Transportation Journal*.



SHERRY PITTINGER

Owner and CEO, A Focused Approach Inc.

Sherry Pittinger is the owner and CEO of A Focused Approach Inc., a veteran-owned, woman-owned company specializing in government contracting, aerospace partnering, and military transition career coaching. Seven years prior to her retirement from the U.S. Air Force Academy in July 2008, Sherry served as the Director of Small Business, met with small businesses on a daily basis, and worked many small business programs in coordination with the Pentagon. As an Air Force veteran, Sherry knows the challenges of transitioning from military life to the civilian job sector and now works with military clients to help them bridge the gap to a new career.



DR. DIRK BROWN

Director, FABER Entrepreneurship Center

Clinical Assistant Professor,

Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina

Dr. Dirk Brown is the Director of the FABER Entrepreneurship Center and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina. Dr. Brown is a seasoned executive with a strong track record of developing, marketing, and licensing disruptive, proprietary technologies. He is the founding CEO of Pandoodle Corporation, a digital media technology company with offices in California, New York, and South Carolina. Previously, he was CEO of Neoconix, a venture capital-funded electronics technology company serving Fortune 100 customers with worldwide sales and manufacturing. Earlier in his career, Dr. Brown was Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing at High Connection Density (HCD), with P&L responsibility for all of the company's product lines, and prior to that, a Member of Technical Staff at Advanced Micro Devices (AMD). He holds over 25 patents, has written over 30 technical papers and journal articles, and is an active member in a number of professional societies. Dr. Brown holds an M.B.A. from San Jose State, a Ph.D. (Materials Science) and M.Eng. (Applied Physics) from Cornell University, and a B.Sc. (Eng) in Applied Physics/Electrical Engineering from Queen's University in Canada.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PANELISTS



KIRK ATKINSON

Business Development Manager, BLG Logistics Group

Kirk Atkinson is responsible for sales and communications for BLG Logistics, Inc., the American subsidiary of the globally operating BLG Logistics Group GmbH & Co. KG. Kirk brings over 10 years of experience in public relations, project management, and business development to BLG Group. Kirk is a native of Birmingham, AL, holds a bachelor's degree in Communication from The University of Alabama and a graduate certificate in German language and international relations from the Institute of International Communication in Düsseldorf, Germany. Since 2004, BLG, Inc., has expanded to over 550 employees with close to one million square feet of facility-based logistics operations in the United States.



STEVE BURRY

Employee Relations Project Manager, Michelin USA

Steve Burry is the Employee Relations Project Manager at the Michelin Headquarters in Greenville, SC. Burry is leading an initiative on attracting and developing the skilled workforce of the future. Previously, Burry served as the Site Personnel Manager for the Earthmover and Passenger Facilities, Michelin North America, Lexington, SC. The Lexington location is home to the largest manufacturing site in the world for Michelin USA. Burry has spent 35 years with Michelin USA, eight years in manufacturing management and 27 years in personnel positions. During this time, Burry has worked in numerous Michelin USA manufacturing facilities as well as previous assignments at Michelin's North American headquarters in Greenville, SC.



RALPH DAETWYLER

President, Max Daetwyler Corporation

Ralph Daetwyler was born in New York in 1979 but spent most of his life in North Carolina after his father moved the family business to Charlotte to take advantage of the growing customer base in the Southeast. Born into a third-generation family business headquartered in Switzerland, Ralph spent a large portion of his childhood between Europe and the United States. After earning his Business Management Degree from NC State University in 2004, Ralph spent time working at one of Daetwyler's largest customers in Germany to learn about the printing process from customer inquiry to product delivery. Upon his return to the USA, Ralph attended Clemson University to earn his Master's Degree in Graphic Communication in 2007. Ralph spent the next two years traveling the world as VP of Global Development for the company to meet customers and visit many of Daetwyler's 14 locations worldwide. This was to establish standards by which Daetwyler Corporation conducts business on a worldwide scale, as well as develop relationships with key customers in the printing industry. Since January 2009, Ralph has served as the President of Max Daetwyler USA as well as K. Walter Service Corporation (a sister company within the holding group). Combined, the two companies employ roughly 100 people, with two sales and service locations as well as manufacturing in North and South Carolina. Ralph is also a partner and co-founder of Daetwyler Clean Energy, a supplier of racking systems to the solar industry. The Clean Energy Division, started in 2009, was built on the manufacturing strengths provided by Daetwyler Corporation.



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammer

STEFANIE JEHLITSCHKA

German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern United States, Inc.

Stefanie Jehlitschka initially joined the German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern United States, Inc. (GACC South) in August 2006. During this time, she worked in various roles within the organization's marketing department and assisted in the development of the chamber's communication plans. In 2012 Stefanie served as Interim President of the GACC South to start the year before transitioning to the position of Vice President. In this role, Stefanie has increased the GACC South's visibility across the organization's 11-state region by partnering with fellow nonprofits, chambers of commerce, and business leaders. Stefanie actively participates in initiatives and projects aimed at strengthening the growth between Germany and the United States, including the current nation-wide workforce initiative for vocational training. Prior to joining the GACC South, Stefanie worked as a product manager for an international training provider for several years. She holds a Law Degree from the University of Tübingen, Germany.



BRAD NEESE

Director, Apprenticeship Carolina™

Brad Neese is Director of Apprenticeship Carolina™, a division of the South Carolina Technical College System. Apprenticeship Carolina is the fastest growing apprenticeship in the country, with more than 590 participating South Carolina employers. Brad holds a Master's of Public Administration degree from the University of South Carolina and is currently a Political Science Doctorial Candidate at the University of South Carolina. Brad and his wife Jennifer live in Columbia with their daughter, Amelia.

SUPPLY CHAIN PANELISTS



XAVIER TARRAGÓ
Operations Manager, Carbures USA

Xavier Tarragó is Operations Manager of Carbures USA. Xavier studied systems engineering at Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña and also holds a postgrade in organization, manufacturing, and lean manufacturing. He previously served as CEO of Ficosa North America from 2004 to 2011, and as head of lean manufacturing at Ficosa International from October 2011 to June 2012.



MICKEY DIAZ
Director of Airfreight USA, Dachser

Mickey Diaz is Director of Airfreight USA at Dachser, and is also responsible for Latin America development. She has been in the transportation industry for more than 15 years, and joined Dachser in September of 2011.



BRIAN D. SCHULTIES, C.P.M.

Vice President of Procurement, Prysmian Group

Brian D. Schulties has been Vice President of Procurement for Prysmian Group since February 2010.

Mr. Schulties began his career as a Purchasing Manager with U-Brand Corporation in 1986. He has over 25 years of experience in the procurement field; holding several senior level management positions in the automotive, foundry, and wire and cable markets. He also has significant experience working with suppliers around the globe. Prior to joining Prysmian Group, he was the Vice President of Sourcing for General Cable Corporation in Highland Heights, KY.

Mr. Schulties holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Cleary College in Ann Arbor, MI, and received his lifetime C.P.M. certification in early 2007.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT PANELISTS



Power. Passion. Partnership.

GEORGE KAMPSTRA **Senior Manager, Government Relations &** **Business Development, MTU Detroit Diesel, Inc.**

George Kampstra is MTU Detroit Diesel's Senior Manager for Government Relations and Business Development and operates out of the company's Washington, DC, office in Arlington, VA. George joined the company in 2003 with responsibility for contract development and management, and pricing and proposal preparation. His responsibilities were later expanded to include program management of the MTU Detroit Diesel scope of supply for the United States Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (Independence Class) and Joint High Speed Vessel Programs. George has been the company's Washington, DC, representative since July 2010.

George attended Michigan State University as an undergraduate and later attended graduate school at the University of Chicago. In addition to an early career in banking, he worked in the manufacturing and service sectors, lived and worked in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and came to MTU Detroit Diesel from a producer of turbofan engines for the commercial and defense markets.

As MTU Detroit Diesel's representative in Washington, DC, George interacts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the United States Government in the furtherance of the company's goals. His responsibilities also include support to the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and their prime contractors, and in the identification of new business opportunities.



REBECCA A. UFKES
President, UEC Electronics

Rebecca A. Ufkes is the President of UEC Electronics, LLC, an ISO 9001 and AS9100 registered engineering, design, prototyping, and manufacturing woman-owned small business (WOSB) located in Charleston, SC. UEC Electronics, founded in 1995, provides product development and comprehensive manufacturing services to aerospace, military, and commercial markets. Rebecca was selected as the 2010 SBA South Carolina Small Business Person of the Year and was subsequently honored as a National Award Winner at the 2010 SBA National Small Business Week Conference in Washington, DC. For two consecutive years, UEC Electronics has been recognized by Inc. Magazine's 500/5000 fastest growing privately held companies, landing at number 69 for the fastest growing manufacturer in the U.S. in 2011. Early 2012, Rebecca was recognized as a "Champion of Change" at the White House for Innovation and Manufacturing. Last year, UEC Electronics was also awarded the distinguished Nunn-Perry Award for its accomplishments in the DoD Mentor Protégé program with Raytheon.

Rebecca holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from The Citadel and a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University. Prior to founding UEC Electronics, Rebecca was employed by Kaman Aerospace and Sikorsky Aircraft, respectively.

Rebecca actively serves on the Board of Directors of Palmetto Partners, SunTrust Bank, and the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP). Previously, Rebecca served on the Board of "Project Lead the Way," a program to incorporate engineering curriculum into public high schools. To better understand the needs of the academic community, she is very active in supporting local middle and high schools by hosting plant tours and 'shadowing' students, providing speakers to high school career days and participating in Principal of the Day.



JEAN-LOUIS VANDERSTRAETEN
President and CEO, FN Manufacturing, LLC

Prior to his current position, Jean-Louis Vanderstraeten served as the Vice President and CFO of both FNMI and U.S. Repeating Arms Company (USRAC), an affiliate company to the Browning, Inc. organization, which trades as Winchester Rifles and Shotguns in New Haven, CT. Both FN Manufacturing, LLC and U.S. Repeating Arms are subsidiaries of FN Herstal in Liege, Belgium. Both companies are small arms producers; FNMI for the U.S. Military and Law Enforcement and USRAC for sporting use.

In 1996, he moved to Hong Kong for an 18-month assignment as CFO of the Asia Pacific Division of SAIT-Radio Holland, SA; a company servicing and trading in navigation and communication systems.

Mr. Vanderstraeten has been associated with the FN Herstal Group for over 30 years. He has an extensive financial background and has held management positions for the corporation in Belgium, Nigeria, and the United States. He holds a Financial Degree from Chambre Belge Des Experts Comptables in Liege, Belgium. He has served on the Boards of South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, The National Small Arms Technology Consortium, and presently holds the position of Treasurer with the Defense Small Arms Advisory Council.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



Crailar Technologies Inc.

CRAiLAR® Technologies Inc., offers environmentally sustainable and cost-effective natural fiber in the form of flax, hemp, and other bast fibers for use in textile, industrial, energy, medical, and composite material applications. Produced using a fraction of water and chemical inputs compared with other natural fibers, CRAiLAR Flax is the newest natural fiber introduction to the market in decades. The company supplies its CRAiLAR Flax to a host of globally recognized brands, retailers, and manufacturers who are leading the charge to bring about robust and innovative, sustainable change to their respective industries. The company was originally founded in 1998 as a provider of environmentally friendly, socially responsible clothing. Learn more about us at www.crailar.com.



Drive Automotive Industries of America, Inc.

Drive Automotive Industries of America, Inc., manufactures automotive parts and components, including bodyside and door openings; doors, hoods, and fenders; and other large welded assemblies. Its customers include Freightliner, Mercedes-Benz, and BMW. The company was founded in 1993 and is based in Piedmont, South Carolina. Drive Automotive Industries of America, Inc., operates as a subsidiary of Magna International, Inc.



FGP International

Find Great People, LLC (formerly known as Phillips International) is a nationally recognized Recruitment and Human Resources consulting organization that specializes in multiple functional areas across industries throughout the United States and internationally. FGP has been in business for 30 years, serving as career partners for organizations and professionals. With 87% of our business coming from repeat clients, FGP's goal as a business partner is to develop a long-term relationship built on performance and client satisfaction.

Even though awards don't define an organization, we are fortunate to have been recognized as an Inc. 500 and 5000 company (five consecutive years), one of South Carolina's Fastest Growing Companies (four consecutive years), and a Best Place to Work (three consecutive years).

Being located in the Carolinas gives FGP the advantage of a deep understanding of the business environment and the specific challenges and opportunities prospective candidates and their families might face. In addition, our team members understand the culture of the Southeast and provide insight that helps identify candidates that fit your company's corporate culture and that of the community, as well.



Prysmian Group

World leader in the industry of high-technology manufacturing of cables for energy and telecommunications, with annual sales of \$10.5 billion in 2012, Prysmian Group is a truly global company with Group headquarters in Milan, Italy, and subsidiaries in 50 countries, 91 plants, 17 research & development centers and 20,000 employees. Prysmian Group's North America headquarters is located in Lexington, SC.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



America's Most Convenient Bank®

TD Bank

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S., with more than 27,800 employees and deep roots in the community dating back more than 150 years. TD Bank offers a broad array of retail, small business, and commercial banking products and services to nearly 8 million customers through our extensive network of 1,325 retail stores throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro DC, the Carolinas, and Florida. TD Bank is a member of TD Bank Group and a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank of Toronto, Canada, a top 10 financial services company in North America. The Toronto-Dominion Bank trades on the New York and Toronto stock exchanges under the ticker symbol "TD."



Walbridge

For the past 10 years, Walbridge has been ranked as one of the top industrial/manufacturing builders by Engineering News-Record. Walbridge plans, constructs, and equips state-of-the-art manufacturing and industrial facilities throughout North America and Internationally. Our experience includes delivering site, infrastructure, buildings, process support systems, and manufacturing equipment through to start-up and product launch. Walbridge maintains a strong financial strength with a bonding capacity of over \$1.3 billion. We understand the important issues associated with the initial planning of any major industrial project on a greenfield site. We also know that expanding at an existing operating plant requires a focus on construction quality and logistics, while coordinating with plant operations to ensure uninterrupted production. We have been named one of America's Safest Companies. We manage complex projects and offer delivery systems to fit your specific needs, including self-perform capabilities. We see customers as partners on every project, making it a point to understand your business. The result is an efficient, cost-effective facility.

GOLD SPONSOR



FN Manufacturing

FN Manufacturing, a U.S. corporation located in Columbia, SC, is a precision manufacturing facility offering services to the aerospace, firearms, and other industries using ferrous and non-ferrous metals and requiring exacting tolerances and extremely tight quality controls. We are part of the Herstal Group which also includes FN Herstal, Lieges, Belgium; Browning Arms Company, Morgan, UT; and FNH USA, McLean, VA.

SILVER SPONSORS



BLG Logistics

BLG Logistics GmbH & AG was founded in Bremen, Germany in 1877 to concentrate extended warehousing operations closer to the waterways and centralize handling of goods, further propelling Bremen as one of the best port cities in the world. Today, the BLG Group is a world leader in automobile, contract, and container logistics, employing over 15,000 people worldwide.

BLG Logistics, Inc., is the wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary of its German parent. It began operations in 2004, with headquarters in Atlanta, GA, sales offices in Birmingham, AL, and operations centers in Tuscaloosa (Vance), AL. BLG Logistics is a world leader in third-part logistics services, providing unique value-added solutions to highly technical clients. Our mission is threefold:

1. To provide superior logistics services, value, and innovation to our customers, allowing concentration on their core businesses
2. To provide the best development and confidence to our workforce
3. To continue as a leader in our core industries and target regions



Dachser

Dachser is a global operating logistics provider with 347 locations worldwide. 21,650 employees provide innovative logistics solutions around the globe, offering air & sea logistics, inhouse customs brokerage, warehousing, distribution, and LLP service.



Hengst Automotive

For over 50 years, Hengst has been providing the automotive and engine industry as well as industrial and environmental engineering with innovative ideas and solutions in the field of filtration and fluid management. Expertise from the original equipment sector guarantees the highest quality in our spare parts range as well – with products that are always state-of-the-art, yet individually tailored to the relevant application. We have an international presence at nine locations in Europe, North America, and South America, as well as in Asia, ensuring we are always there where the customer needs us. As a family company based in Münster, Germany, our self-conception not only includes continuity in our corporate policies and responsibility for approximately 3,000 employees worldwide but also our commitment to social projects such as the United Way. Hengst of North America's manufacturing facility is located in Camden, SC, and employs 275. North America also incorporates a Technical Services facility in Warren, MI.

SILVER SPONSORS



Innovista

Innovista is a public/private partnership anchored by the Innovation District in the heart of Columbia, SC, that connects the University of South Carolina and university-spawned innovations with entrepreneurs, businesses, and stakeholders. Innovista's purpose is to attract, create, and grow technology-intensive, knowledge-based companies, resulting in higher-paying jobs that help to raise the standard of living in South Carolina. For more information, visit <http://innovista.sc.edu/>.



RhythmLink International

RhythmLink International designs, manufactures, and distributes medical devices and provides custom packaging, private labeling, custom products, and contract manufacturing solutions to its customers. RhythmLink is recognized as a leader within its field at providing the important physical connection between patients and the diagnostic equipment to record or elicit neurophysiologic biopotentials.



TIGGES

TIGGES manufactures custom-made connecting technologies, in small and large quantities, from all metals. Our four manufacturing technologies: cold forming, hot forging, machining and grinding, provide exactly the connection elements you need. Don't rely on chance; rely on German quality, precision, and professional handling. Besides the obvious benefits, the TIGGES in-house design department, extensive warehouse facilities in the US and years of experience in the field of custom-made and standard connection elements for numerous industries and sectors, speak for themselves.

TITLE SPONSORS



PARKER POE ADAMS & BERNSTEIN LLP

Parker Poe, a full-service business law firm with more than 200 attorneys, is among the largest and most respected firms in our home states of North Carolina and South Carolina, where we have five offices located in both state capital cities and the states' major business centers. The Firm has been a leader in the Carolinas representing international companies competing in the world market for more than 30 years.

Since forming our international practice in the early 1980s, we have seen global business change along with the needs of our clients. Our creative, responsive, and aggressive legal strategies have grown to complement our broad portfolio of legal services. Our international clients include multinational, foreign, and domestic corporations based throughout the world in a wide variety of industry sectors, including automotive, manufacturing, telecommunications, biomedical, health care, software development, ecommerce, retail, energy, and financial services. From small, private companies investing in the Carolinas to public companies making acquisitions abroad, our clients benefit from our comprehensive legal services, extensive contacts, and depth of knowledge in the international business world.

Independent surveys by financial, accounting, and research organizations rate Parker Poe among the top law firms for high-value, quality service. Research by Citi, Wachovia, and PricewaterhouseCoopers reveals our rates to be in the mid-range of competing firms, both regionally and nationally. Service satisfaction research by Altman Weil and BTI (recognized as the JD Powers and Associates of the legal profession) identifies Parker Poe among the leaders in client satisfaction and loyalty. Recently, BTI released its annual ranking of corporations' satisfaction with law firms, and Parker Poe was on its "A-List" for "Advising Clients on Business Issues."

To learn more, visit www.parkerpoe.com, or contact Sam Moses, Partner, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein; e-mail: sammoses@parkerpoe.com; tel: +1 (803) 252-6842.

Rödl & Partner RÖDL & PARTNER

Rödl & Partner, a leading global professional services firm, provides you integrated audit, legal, tax, and business consulting solutions from its 89 wholly owned subsidiaries in 39 countries. Our clients benefit from a single point of contact approach that is designed to meet and exceed the needs of your domestic and globally operating businesses. Since our 1977 formation in Nuremberg, Germany, we have grown to more than 3,000 entrepreneurial professionals worldwide working with your success in mind. Our U.S. offices are in Atlanta (GA), Charlotte (NC), Greenville (SC), Chicago (IL), Birmingham (AL), and New York City (NY).

We have specifically tailored our accounting, auditing, tax, and business consulting services to the unique needs of your foreign owned business in the United States. For the past 35-plus years, our core practice has been serving the accounting and tax needs of primarily German speaking and other foreign owned Mittelstand companies operating in the United States. As the preferred accounting, auditing, tax, and business consulting professional services firm of German speaking entities, our clients benefit from the extensive experience of our U.S.-certified public accountants as well as our bilingual (German, Italian, Japanese, and other languages) staff of professionals, many whom also carry international certifications. To learn more, visit roedlusa.com, or contact Oliver Hecking, CPA, StB, Partner, Rödl & Partner; e-mail: oliver.hecking@roedlusa.com; tel: +1 (704) 376-2145.



GLOBAL CAROLINA COMMUNICATIONS

Global Carolina Communications (GCC) provides a full range of custom collateral, marketing, and PR services to global enterprises throughout the Carolinas and beyond. GCC helps companies like yours reduce marketing spend, increase leads, and boost revenues. Our custom press releases, executive profiles, translations, and sales collateral are published on our Web site, the Global Carolina Business Journal, which receives 30,000 visits per month from more than 30 countries. This immediate exposure helps ensure that your message quickly reaches those who matter most: your end customers. Moreover, we showcase your company at our annual Global Carolina Connections conference, which is attended by global executives from a wide range of industries.

GCC's success stories, case studies, and white papers provide your business development team with powerful third-party endorsements of your company's products, strategies, and services. These highly effective sales tools give customers and prospects rapid, persuasive insight into how your company addresses or solves a particular industry issue or business challenge. GCC's team of experts produces collateral for global OEMs including Daimler, Porsche, and T-Systems; multiple small to midsize suppliers in the automotive, aeronautics, and life sciences industries; as well as for internationally affiliated service providers such as the SC Department of Commerce and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. To learn more, visit gcbusinessjournal.com, or contact Scott Burgess, Founder and CEO, Global Carolina Communications; e-mail: scott@gcbusinessjournal.com; tel: +1 (803) 338-1599.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



America's Most Convenient Bank®



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



PARTNERS





GLOBAL CAROLINA
COMMUNICATIONS

GCBusinessJournal.com