

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2005

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Parkdale America Invests \$22 Million to Modernize Edgefield Facility

Textile manufacturer to train existing workforce in latest technology

Edgefield, SC - Parkdale America is planning a \$22 million expansion of its Edgefield County operating facility to be completed by the end of 2005.

At a time when textile industry growth appears to be stagnant, the yarn manufacturer is investing in state-of-the-art open-end equipment that will help it remain competitive in a global economy.

"We are extremely grateful that we have been able to successfully survive in an industry where margins are slim," said Parkdale CEO Anderson Warlick. "This modernization will allow us to continue to offer our customers the latest technology and quality."

"We're excited about this," said Lee Thomas, executive vice president of the open end division. "It's a tribute to our leadership that we can provide this magnitude of modernization during a doom-and-gloom time for the industry."

Thomas said the plant's primary competition comes from China, putting the Edgefield facility into a globally competing market. He added that the new equipment is the "latest and greatest" and "what we need to stay competitive."

Parkdale acquired the Edgefield facility, formerly Delta Apparel, in January 2005. The Center for Advanced Technology Training (CATT) is offering programs to train Parkdale employees how to properly use the new equipment.

"Encouraging this kind of capital investment is central to our mission of creating more fertile economic soil here in South Carolina," said Governor Mark Sanford. "Parkdale America is a major player in the textile industry and we're very pleased to have them expanding in the state."

"In light of the current state of textile manufacturing, we are especially pleased that Parkdale America chose to invest in its Edgefield location," said Secretary of Commerce Bob Faith. "South Carolina offers a competitive advantage when it comes to attracting companies like Parkdale America that utilize advanced processes and require a highly skilled workforce."

"We are pleased that Parkdale has placed its confidence in the citizens of Edgefield County as the location for their modernization," said Monroe Kneece, Chairman, Edgefield County Council. "Our workers have demonstrated a unique ability to adapt to technological changes in the past

and I am fully confident that with this expansion, the Edgefield plant will be one of high productivity.”

“We are glad to see Parkdale's modernization,” said Bob McKay, Mayor, Town of Edgefield. “Parkdale is a great corporate citizen, and the Town of Edgefield looks forward to assisting them in anyway we can.”

“It is imperative that textile companies such as Parkdale invest in technology to remain competitive,” said John Troutman, Chairman, Economic Development Partnership. “We are no longer competing with the southeast or US markets, but with the world. The expansion at the Edgefield plant will keep this facility competitive.”

For more than 80 years, Parkdale has been the industry leader in the production of cotton and cotton blend yarns. Combining innovative technologies with only the best people has enabled Parkdale to maintain its position as the world's largest producer of yarn. Parkdale currently operates 30 facilities, mostly in North Carolina. The company has five plants in Virginia, one in South Carolina, one in Mexico and one in Colombia, South America.

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