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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trenton Plastic Products Gives New Life to Former Carlisle Plant
Start-up venture invests \$5 million in Edgefield County

Columbia, SC – Start-up Trenton Plastic Products, LLC has invested \$5 million to purchase the former Carlisle facility in the Edgefield County community of Trenton. Illinois-based Speedy Tool owner Ed Roach has launched the new venture to serve his growing customer base in the Southeast.

Trenton Plastic Products will begin operating from its 50,000 square-foot Trenton facility in July, with a full ramp up of production planned for the fall. The company will produce blow mold and injection plastic components and parts for the automotive and lawn and garden industries. While Roach was initially only interested in purchasing the equipment, after seeing the building and the community he decided to reopen the operation.

“Edgefield County was clearly the right location for us to begin this new venture,” Roach said. “We found an existing plant that was ready to go and basically suited our company’s needs very well. We also have the opportunity to hire back many of the Carlisle workers who already have the skills and experience to be productive from day one.”

Roach said the company plans to hire approximately 200 workers over the next two to three years. While Trenton Plastic Product’s public announcement and advertisements through the Center for Accelerated Technology Training are expected to draw qualified applicants, Roach said former Carlisle workers would have “first shot” at the new positions.

“We had many requests from Carlisle’s former customers to reopen this facility and to make the parts they needed,” said Mike Hall, vice president of operations and sales for Trenton Plastic Products. “We look forward to not only servicing Carlisle customers, but also moving our company into other areas, such as automotive parts manufacturing.”

As Hall noted, the company’s initial customers will include some former Carlisle clients, including Club Car, EZ GO and Electrolux. Roach also plans to expand the facility to include powder coating and paint production in the future.

“Encouraging new and higher-paying jobs is central to our mission of creating more fertile economic soil conditions here in South Carolina,” said Governor Mark Sanford. “That’s why we’ll continue to push for additional income tax relief, so that more announcements like this one can take place all across the state.”

“We’re especially pleased that Trenton Plastic Products chose to locate its manufacturing facility in Edgefield County, an area that has worked hard to overcome adversity,” said Secretary of Commerce Bob Faith. “As manufacturing becomes more technology-based, we are pleased to welcome companies like Trenton Plastic Products that are committed to advanced processes that require the highly skilled workforce South Carolina has to offer.”

“We are excited about a new company moving into the Carlisle plant,” said Helen Summer, Mayor of the Town of Trenton. “The creation of new jobs to replace the ones that were lost when Carlisle closed will be a real benefit to the area. The Town of Trenton extends a warm welcome to Trenton Plastic Products.”

“When Carlisle shut down their facility last year, over 100 workers were displaced,” said Monroe Kneece, Edgefield County Council. “We are confident that many of these talented workers will be rehired by Trenton Plastic Products, along with creating additional employment opportunities for our citizens.”

“In 2004, Edgefield County was impacted by the closure of the VF Playwear and Carlisle,” said John Troutman, Chairman of the Economic Development Partnership. “We are delighted that both of these vacant buildings are once again productive thanks to Trenton Plastic Products and the Urban Outfitters announcement last month.”

For individuals seeking employments, please apply at the Edgefield One Stop at 400 Church Street Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM or the Aiken One Stop at 1571 Richland Avenue East Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. Job seekers may also go to www.jobsearch.org/SC.

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