

South Carolina's Commercial Vehicle Industry

With an automotive industry presence that dates back to the early 1900s, South Carolina has a long history of automotive success. Today the South Carolina automotive network includes more than 250 companies including world-renowned BMW, Daimler Trucks, Honda, and Michelin.

Representing over 5% of the State's employment base, the automotive sector is an integral part of South Carolina's economy. As a result, a wide range of companies supporting all aspects of automotive manufacturing—from assemblers, parts suppliers, and raw material producers—are based in South Carolina. Overall, South Carolina's automotive cluster produces a total economic impact of over \$27 billion.

Commercial vehicles make up a vital and growing part of South Carolina's automotive sector. The best example of the growth of the state's commercial vehicle industry is Daimler's 2013 announcement of the planned \$4.6 million expansion of their manufacturing plant near Charleston, South Carolina. The improved manufacturing line for Sprinter model vans will increase employment at the plant to nearly 200.

South Carolina offers unparalleled advantages to automotive companies seeking the ideal business location. The Palmetto State's progressive business climate ranks among the best in the nation with low corporate tax rates, highly competitive wages, and low rates of unionization.

Daimler AG

Daimler AG, the second largest truck manufacturer in the world, operates several headquarters facilities and manufacturing plants in South Carolina.

A division of Daimler AG and North America's top commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Daimler Trucks North America** operates its **Freightliner Trucks, Western Star Trucks, and Daimler Trucks Remarketing Division** business unit headquarters in Fort Mill, South Carolina. The company relocated its 350-person sales and marketing division to Fort Mill from Portland, Oregon in 2008 to bring its marketing and sales operations closer to its automotive plants and supplier base in South Carolina.

Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation (FCCC), a subsidiary of Daimler Trucks North America, manufactures premium chassis for motor homes, school buses, shuttle buses and walk-in delivery vans in its Gaffney, South Carolina facility. In 2012, FCCC earned Daimler's global Lean Manufacturing Award in the Human Infrastructure category. FCCC was also the first chassis manufacturer and the first company in the trucking industry to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill status in the United States. FCCC has a history of technology innovation and leads the way for alternative power in its markets, including the first-ever hybrid electric motor home chassis. Since 2007, **Daimler Vans Manufacturing** has assembled Sprinter vans in Ladson, near Charleston, South Carolina. The Sprinter vans assembled at the Ladson facility are sold in the U.S. under the Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner brands.

A joint venture between Daimler AG and Rolls-Royce, **Tognum America** chose Aiken, South Carolina as the location for its assembly, engine testing and component machining plant for MTU Series 2000 and Series 4000 off-highway diesel engines. This \$45 million 270,000-square-foot manufacturing facility is strategically located along interstate I-20 and within 125 miles of the Port of Charleston for easy access to domestic and international markets. In July 2013, the company announced a \$22.5 million investment to expand its South Carolina Research and Development Center, which features innovative engine test cells that aid in the design of cleaner, more efficient and more powerful diesel engines. Once complete, Tognum America in Aiken will be one of North America's most advanced diesel engine development facilities.

Proterra

Proterra Inc., a manufacturer of zero-emission commercial transportation products, began producing electric buses in Greenville in 2011. Proterra provides a range of clean commercial transit technologies, including the EcoRide™ fast-charge battery-electric transit bus and FastFill™ charging stations. The lightweight, composite-body bus is powered by lithium-titanate battery packs that give the bus a 40-mile range between charging – which takes less than ten minutes. Proterra buses have been delivered to cities from coast to coast, making up a key component of transit fleets in cities including Louisville, KY; Pomona, CA; and San Antonio, TX; among many others. Proterra anticipates that it will invest \$68 million and create more than 1,300 new jobs over seven years in Greenville County.

The Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) played a big role in Proterra’s location decision, and the company expects CU-ICAR to contribute to the development of Proterra’s products and processes. Proterra was also drawn to Greenville because of the sizeable number of automotive suppliers in the area.

A Growing Sector

Since 2007, companies in the commercial vehicle industry have announced over \$187 million in capital investment in South Carolina creating approximately 2,000 new jobs. The table below highlights a few of these recent announcements.

New and Expanding Commercial Vehicle Company Announcements South Carolina, 2007 - 2013			
<i>Company</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>New Jobs</i>	<i>New Capital Investment</i>
Tognum America, Inc.	2013	10	\$23 Million
Daimler Vans Manufacturing, LLC	2013	60	\$5 Million
Tognum America, Inc.	2012	20	\$40 Million
Tognum America, Inc.	2010	250	\$45 Million
Proterra, Inc.	2010	1,300	\$68 Million
Daimler Trucks North America	2007	300	\$8 Million