



GLOBAL CAROLINA
CONNECTIONS

2014 **Global Business Conference**
on International Investment in the Carolinas

Monday, August 11, 2014 | 8:00AM – 4:30PM | Harris Conference Center, CPCC, Charlotte NC



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**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF CHARLOTTE**

AGENDA

8:00–10:00AM

GET CONNECTED

Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking and Expo

SPONSORED BY: **CBRE**

10:00–10:30AM

CHARLOTTE CONNECTIONS

Welcome and General Session

Mary Vickers-Koch

10:30–10:35AM

INTRODUCTION

The Honorable Dan Clodfelter

Mayor of Charlotte

10:35 –11:00AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Sharon Decker

North Carolina Secretary of Commerce

11:00AM–12:00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Future of U.S. Healthcare —

What It Means for Foreign Businesses

SPONSORED BY: **WELLS FARGO**

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Ginny Bertwell, Transaxle Manufacturing of America

Judy Davis, Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina

Frasier Ives, Wells Fargo Insurance

Shawn Regan, RhythmLink International

Healthcare plan management represents a major cost and operational hurdle for foreign manufacturers operating in the Carolinas. In this panel, local and foreign business leaders discuss how they manage employee healthcare issues as well as their plans to address the coming changes that will result from implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

12:00–1:00PM

CATERED LUNCH BUFFET

SPONSORED BY: **OMP MECHTRON**

12:30–1:00PM

FEATURED SPEAKER

Michael Wolf, Economist, Wells Fargo

The Carolinas' Economy:

A Power House for Foreign Direct Investment

1:00–2:00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability — Best Practices Among Foreign Manufacturers

SPONSORED BY: **DUKE ENERGY**

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Reed Armstrong, Iberdrola Renewables
Rob Caldwell, Duke Energy
Salvatore A. Della Villa, Strategic Power Systems
Hans Hartenstein, Steag
Ivan Urlaub, NC Sustainable Energy Association

In recent years, the Carolinas have staked a legitimate claim to being a hub of activity in the U.S. energy sector – including traditional, nuclear, wind, and renewable energies. In this session, a panel of experts will discuss the best practices around energy sustainability and efficiencies. Participants will learn where to go, and who to talk to, on the local, state, and global levels to ensure that their companies are maximizing their energy potential.

2:00–3:00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

Education and Workforce Development

SPONSORED BY: **HOFMANN SERVICES**

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Roger Collins, Siemens
Stefanie Jehlitschka, GACC South
Brad Neese, Apprenticeship Carolina
Chris Paynter, CPCC
Mike Realon, Olympic HS

In this follow-up to last year's popular panel, leaders from foreign-owned or -affiliated businesses in the Carolinas discuss the challenges they faced – and continue to face – around finding, training, and retaining a highly skilled workforce. This session focuses on the successful solutions that companies have found to this timely issue.

2:00–4:30PM

WRAP UP AND EXTENDED NETWORKING SESSION

SPONSORED BY: **PRYSMIAN**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Scott Burgess

CEO, Global Carolina Communications
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Sam Moses

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FEATURED SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

(IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)



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.



MARY VICKERS-KOCH

**Dean, Harris Campus and Business & Industry Training Services
Central Piedmont Community College**

Mary Vickers-Koch is the Dean of the Harris Campus and Business & Industry Training Services at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. She leads the continuing education programs that include leadership, management, professional development, computer, financial services, small business and entrepreneurship, economic development programs, and workforce development consulting solutions. Ms. Vickers-Koch is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and holds an MBA from the Babcock School, Wake Forest University. Prior to joining Central Piedmont Community College in 2000, Ms. Vickers-Koch worked for 21 years in the management consulting industry, partnering with executives on strategy development, leadership, service quality, and team building.



THE HONORABLE DANIEL (DAN) CLODFELTER

Mayor

City of Charlotte

Mayor Daniel (Dan) Clodfelter was appointed Mayor of Charlotte on April 7, 2014. Prior to his appointment as Mayor, he served as a member of the North Carolina State Senate from 1999 to 2014, representing portions of Mecklenburg County. From 1987–1993, he was District One representative on Charlotte City Council, and prior to elected office he served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission as Chairman. He graduated from Davidson College in 1972, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, and a Rhodes Scholar, and received a second Bachelor's Degree from Oxford University in Oxford, England in 1974. Mayor Clodfelter earned his J.D. degree at Yale Law School in 1977. He served as law clerk for Judge James B. McMillan, Jr. of the U.S. Western District Court of North Carolina from 1977 to 1978 after which he entered private practice. He is currently an attorney for Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein.



THE HONORABLE SHARON ALLRED DECKER
Secretary of Commerce
State of North Carolina

Sharon Allred Decker is Secretary of Commerce of the State of North Carolina. After graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Decker spent more than 17 years with Duke Power Company, now Duke Energy. She began with the company in consumer services and moved rapidly through the ranks to become the youngest and first female vice president in Duke Power's history. Decker left Duke Power as Chief Communications Officer to become the founding president of The Lynnwood Foundation, which was created to restore the Duke Mansion in Charlotte as a conference center, and to begin the William States Lee Leadership Institute. While at Lynnwood in 1998, she also served as the chair of the Charlotte Chamber and was named Charlotte Woman of the Year. She moved to Rutherfordton in 1999 to serve as president of the Doncaster division of Tanner Companies.

In 2004, she created and served as the CEO of the Tapestry Group, a non-profit that helps individuals lead healthy lives in body, mind, and spirit. In addition to her work with Tapestry, Decker is wife to her husband, Bob, a mother of four, a lay pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a student at the Christopher White School of Divinity, completing her Master of Divinity Degree with a concentration in Spiritual Formation. She completed an internship last year as Director of Graduate Ministries for the Center for Christian Study in Charlottesville, Virginia where she served as chaplain to students at the Darden School of Business and the UVA School of Law. She remains a member of the Board of the Center for Christian Study. Decker has served on the boards of three Fortune 500 companies.



MICHAEL WOLF
Economist
Wells Fargo Securities

Michael Wolf is an economist with Wells Fargo Securities, covering both U.S. and regional economies. Based in Charlotte, NC, he writes indicator reports, special commentary, and contributes to the company's Weekly Economic & Financial Commentary.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Michael worked as a regional and international economist at Moody's Analytics. Additionally, he measured trends in compensation as an economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Michael has a master's degree in international economic policy and statistics from Columbia University and Baruch College, respectively. He also holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Maryland.

He is a member of the National Association of Business Economics and Charlotte Economics Club.

HEALTHCARE PANELISTS



GINNY BERTWELL
Human Resources Manager
Transaxle Manufacturing of America Inc.

Ginny Bertwell is the Human Resources Manager at Transaxle Manufacturing of America, Inc. She has been working in the field of human resources since 1980, having worked in the healthcare, telecommunications and manufacturing industries. A professional with 30+ years of experience in manufacturing, a multi-state service business, and a non-profit organization, she has hands-on experience with labor relations with both union and non-union workforces.

Ginny has a Bachelor's degree from Concord University and received her SPHR certification in 2002. She has twice been nominated as HR Professional of the Year for York County (SC); small business category. She is a member of both the local and national SHRM organization.



JUDY DAVIS
Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina

Judy Davis is Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina. As executive vice president and chief legal officer, Judith Davis is the senior officer responsible for five subsidiaries of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina: Companion Life, Companion Captive Insurance, Companion Property & Casualty Insurance Co., Companion Commercial Insurance Company and UCI Medical Affiliates. She currently also serves as acting president of Companion Property & Casualty. Prior to joining BlueCross in 1995, she worked for Lincoln National Corporation, a diversified financial insurance company, specializing in mergers and acquisitions. In addition to her duties at the state's largest insurance company, she currently serves as a board member for SC Governors School of Science and Mathematics Foundation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, United Way of the Midlands, Columbia College, and Palmetto Conservation Foundation. She has previously served as chair of the United Way of the Midlands board of directors, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Trinity Housing Corporation of Columbia.



FRASIER IVES
Wells Fargo

Frasier re-joined Wells Fargo in 2005, after working for two years in the early 1980's in the corporate tax department of a predecessor bank. He worked 13 years in the tax and employee benefits practice at Moore & Van Allen, PLLC, a large regional law firm headquartered in Charlotte, NC, rising to partnership in the firm. Then, he served as a principal and managing consultant for six years with Findley Davies, Inc., a regional human resources consulting firm, where he maintained a broad-based retirement and welfare benefits consulting and technical support practice. He earned his B.S. in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. (*cum laude*) from Washington & Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. In addition, he holds an inactive CPA license from the state of North Carolina.

Frasier has extensive experience with respect to the design, drafting, compliance, and training support for all types of retirement, health and welfare, and fringe benefit plans. In particular, he is an expert on the impact that federal health care reform will have on the employer-provided health care delivery system in the U.S. He is a frequent public speaker on a variety of employee benefits topics, who strives to deliver his presentations with a plain-speaking approach that explains complex issues in a common sense and practical manner.



SHAWN REGAN
Chief Executive Officer and Co-owner
Rhythmink International, LLC

Shawn Regan is the Chief Executive Officer and co-owner of Rhythmink International, LLC, a company he cofounded in 2002. Initially, Regan was Rhythmink's director of sales and marketing, guiding its start up through strategic marketing and branding efforts while supervising rapid sales growth and product innovations.

In 2008, Regan became CEO and began overseeing Rhythmink's initiatives to broaden its commercial product lines and custom manufacturing design services. Leveraging his diverse background and experience, Regan has been able to focus Rhythmink's efforts on integrating clinical end-user needs with engineering and manufacturing requirements.

Prior to his involvement with Rhythmink, Regan held several positions as clinical director and later as director of sales and marketing at Biotronic, a neurophysiologic intraoperative monitoring service. Regan also worked as a regional sales director for Axon Systems, a designer and manufacturer of neurophysiological patient monitors. His entire career has revolved around the field of neurophysiology encompassing clinical, sales, marketing, leadership and executive management experience. Regan received his Bachelor's degree in Movement Science from the School of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY PANELISTS



REED ARMSTRONG
Iberdrola Renewables

Reed Armstrong is regional lead for energy marketing at Iberdrola Renewables in Austin TX. Reed is a twenty-five year veteran of the domestic wholesale natural gas and electric power markets. Since 2004 he has been responsible for new power purchase agreements for the company's new wind and solar projects. Iberdrola Renewables, the nation's #2 wind power generator, now operates more than 6GW of wind, solar and biomass projects in 17 states.



ROB CALDWELL
Vice President
Wholesale Power & Renewable Generation
Duke Energy

Rob Caldwell serves as vice president of renewable generation development for Duke Energy's Regulated Utilities organization. In this role, he is responsible for developing the company's regulated utilities policies and strategies, driving activities related to renewable generation and executing existing responsibilities related to renewable energy compliance.

Previously, Caldwell served as vice president of wholesale power and renewable generation for the company's regulated utilities. His business scope of responsibility included almost six gigawatts (GW) of wholesale contracts, more than five GW of purchased power contracts, approximately three GW of co-owner assets and a nearly \$3 billion commitment toward Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards compliance.

Caldwell began his career with Progress Energy in 1998 and held various leadership positions, including vice president of strategic planning, vice president of gas supply and transportation, vice president of regulated commercial operations and vice president of efficiency and innovative technology. He has managed fuels, power marketing and trading, portfolio management, energy efficiency, demand-side management, electric vehicles, smart grid, retail customer strategy, wholesale power, emerging technology, renewable generation and alternative generation.

A native of Michigan, Caldwell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Michigan State University.

He is a certified public accountant and serves on the boards of directors for Advanced Energy, NC GreenPower, the North Carolina Opera and the North Carolina Theatre. In addition, he actively participates in utility advisory roles for the Edison Electric Institute's Economic Policy Advisory Group, the Electric Power Research Institute's Research Advisory Committee and the Florida Energy Systems Consortium.



SALVATORE A. DELLA VILLA
Founder, Chairman, & CEO
Strategic Power Systems

Salvatore A. Della Villa is the founder, Chairman, & CEO of Strategic Power Systems. With over thirty-eight (38) years of experience in the reliability engineering and information technology disciplines, he has led SPS in establishing the Operational Reliability Analysis Program (ORAP®) as the single largest global plant database in the energy industry. Prior to founding SPS in 1987, he held various positions in General Electric's turbine business operation, with a focus on "design for reliability" processes. He completed his undergraduate work at Siena College and his graduate work at Union College, focusing on mathematics, statistics, operations research and industrial administration and management. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a past Chairman of the Electric Power committee, and a past Chairman of the ASME Standards Committee on reliability. He is a member of the American Society for Quality Control, and an ASQ certified reliability engineer. He has served as a member of the World Energy Council's working group on reliability, and is currently on the Advisory Board of the Electric Power Conference and a current member of the Gas Turbine Association (GTA).



HANS HARTENSTEIN
President
Steag Energy Services LLC

Hans Hartenstein is president of Steag Energy Services LLC. He has been in the environmental field since 1987. His responsibilities have included permitting application procedures and regulatory interfacing, environmental and financial analysis, project development, process engineering and management, procurement and construction supervision, and operation of air pollution control equipment. Mr. Hartenstein acted as project director of numerous air pollution control systems, one municipal waste-to-energy project, and four hazardous waste incineration projects, and has been involved in the development of eighteen environmental projects. Mr. Hartenstein's experience in SCR management includes SCR design review; catalyst management, ammonia storage and supply systems including, ammonia injection grid testing, large particle ash screen engineering, and year-round operating consulting.



IVAN URLAUB
Executive Director
North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association

Ivan Urlaub brings 16+ years of state, U.S., and international experience in resolving policy, finance, communications, and economic challenges to the sustainable provision and use of energy and water. Since 2005, Ivan's vision and work at the helm of the NC Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) has catapulted North Carolina from one of the worst-performing clean energy states to a top tier U.S. market. Prior to joining NCSEA, Ivan worked for Development Alternatives, Inc. supporting conflict resolution over water resources in the Middle East and North Africa. Turning our energy challenges into economic opportunities through public policy and market intelligence, Ivan has been at the forefront of creating state policy and market drivers that consistently yield positive metrics on net economic benefits and dampening electricity rates, while growing jobs, private investments, local tax bases, and market exports – transitioning NC's energy economy to be a diverse and competitive global partner. Ivan is founder and board member of the NC Clean Energy Business Alliance and earned his Master of Public Policy and Master of Environmental Management degrees from Duke University.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PANELISTS



ROGER COLLINS
Technical Training Specialist and Apprenticeship Coordinator
Siemens Energy, Inc.

Roger Collins is the Technical Training Specialist and Apprenticeship Coordinator for Siemens Energy, Inc. in Charlotte, N.C. Mr. Collins is responsible for the technical training of more than 1,500 employees at the advanced manufacturing facility. Before beginning his current position, Mr. Collins served Siemens as a machining supervisor in the generator product line. Prior to Siemens, Mr. Collins worked with Philip Morris U.S.A. and Newport News Shipbuilding as a machinist and machining supervisor. Mr. Collins is a graduate of the Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding and is a Journeyman Machinist.



STEFANIE JEHLITSCHKA
Vice President
German American Chambers of Commerce of the
Southern United States, Inc.

Since joining the German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern U.S., Inc. (GACC South) in 2006, Stefanie Jehlitschka has held various roles. She became Director of Marketing in 2008 and Vice President in 2011. At the end of 2011, she was appointed Interim President & CEO by the Board of Directors through Feb. 2012.

Stefanie initiated the joint AHK USA brand and developed the chamber's communication plan. She heads the current nation-wide workforce initiative for the German Dual Vocational Training System in the United States.

Prior to joining the GACC South, Stefanie held several positions at international training providers as well as law departments.

She also serves in the leadership team of the AISF 2010 and 2014 which benefits SOS Children's Villages.

Stefanie Jehlitschka is originally from Braunschweig, Germany. She has a Law Degree from the University of Tübingen and spent one year in Thessaloniki, Greece studying law.



BRAD NEESE
Director, Apprenticeship Carolina™

Brad Neese is Director of Apprenticeship Carolina™, a division of the South Carolina Technical College System. South Carolina has one of the fastest growing apprenticeship systems in the country with a 650 percent increase in participating employers since 2007. Brad holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of South Carolina and is currently a Political Science Doctoral Candidate at the University of South Carolina. Brad and his wife Jennifer live in Columbia, South Carolina with their daughter Amelia.



CHRIS PAYNTER

Dean

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

Futures Institute at the Central Piedmont Community College

Chris Paynter is the Dean of STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) Futures Institute at the Central Piedmont Community College. Mr. Paynter earned a Masters degree in Geography and has been an instructor of geographic information systems for seven years, including appointments at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Queens University of Charlotte, and Central Piedmont Community College where he was Program Chair of the Geospatial Technology program from 2006 through 2009. The departments where these courses were taught include Geography, Planning, Environmental Science, and Earth Sciences. Widely traveled, including more than 30 countries across six continents, Mr. Paynter lived for three years in Singapore before moving to Charlotte where he attended CPCC as a college transfer student. During his free time, he enjoys running, camping, and hiking.



MIKE REALON

Career & Community Development Coordinator

Olympic Community of Schools, Charlotte, NC

Michael Realon is Career & Community Development Coordinator at Olympic Community of Schools in Charlotte, NC. Before coming to Olympic to teach business, economics and math, he worked for trade associations, including the Charlotte Apparel Mart. Realon now acts as Olympic's liaison to the business community and has been instrumental in coordinating internship programs between Olympic High School and various international manufacturers.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



SCOTT BURGESS

Founder and Owner

Global Carolina Communications

Scott Evan Burgess is the founder and owner of Global Carolina Communications, a PR and marketing firm dedicated to providing value collateral to foreign-owned and -affiliated companies and organizations in the Carolinas. Mr. Burgess has worked in the Carolinas and abroad for a range of companies including the global software giant SAP, as well as a number of smaller local suppliers and service providers. Mr. Burgess studied communications at the University of South Carolina and also spent a number of years on exchange at the University of Bamberg, Germany. In 1995, he received a Fulbright stipend to work and do research at the University of Erfurt, Germany.



OLIVER HECKING

Partner

Langford de Kock LLP

Member of Rödl & Partner International

Oliver Hecking is a Partner at Langford de Kock LLP (“Rödl & Partner”), Charlotte, North Carolina, where he specializes in international taxation and auditing for European, primarily German speaking companies in the U.S. Mr. Hecking assists foreign companies with their first U.S. market entry and is also a frequent speaker on various international tax and accounting topics.

Mr. Hecking worked in several offices around the world, including Atlanta, Georgia, Nuremberg, Germany, and Moscow, Russia. Prior to joining Rödl & Partner, Mr. Hecking worked as an assistant with the German American Chambers of Commerce of the Southern United States, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia in their accounting and controlling department.

Area of Expertise

- Attest services (audits, reviews and agreed-upon procedures) in accordance with US-GAAP, IFRS and German GAAP
- US-GAAP/IFRS/German GAAP conversions
- International taxation and planning
- Corporate and individual taxation planning
- Specialized in consulting with European companies that conduct business in the U.S.
- Assistance with market entry which includes site selections
- Frequent speaker on accounting, tax and general business aspects of establishing subsidiaries in the U.S. market



SAM C. MOSES

Partner

Parker Poe Adams and Bernstein LLP

Sam Moses represents domestic and foreign companies, including manufacturing firms, on a variety of inbound and outbound business transactions and coordinates client business expansion and incentives projects throughout the U.S.

Mr. Moses served as managing director of a U.S. state's European Office in Germany, assisting non-U.S. investors to find new locations for their new North American footprint. He was appointed by the state's Secretary of Commerce and served under three governors. He also managed the state's export development program for Europe, Africa and the Middle East, advising companies on international trade and market entry strategies. In 2002, Mr. Moses served as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow in Germany, during which he worked for Credit Suisse First Boston and Gleiss Lutz, a leading global law firm.

Since 2010, Mr. Moses has been involved in business expansion and incentives projects totaling over \$800 million in capital investment, and the creation of more than 2,675 jobs in various industries, including food processing, automotive, powertrain, aerospace, advanced textiles, electronics, chemicals and metalworking. Mr. Moses serves as a member of Parker Poe's Business Investment and Incentives Team, and chairs the firm's Manufacturing Team.

DIAMOND SPONSOR



Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with \$1.6 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 locations, 12,500 ATMs, and the internet (wellsfargo.com), and has offices in 36 countries to support customers who conduct business in the global economy. With approximately 265,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in the United States. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 29 on Fortune's 2014 rankings of America's largest corporations. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all our customers' financial needs and help them succeed financially. Wells Fargo perspectives and stories are also available at blogs.wellsfargo.com and at stories.wellsfargobank.com.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



CBRE

CBRE is the global leader in real estate services and investment.

Every day, in markets around the globe, we apply our insight, experience and resources to help clients make informed real estate decisions. Every year, we complete thousands of successful assignments across a wide range of markets and real estate service lines.

Our deep experience and expertise allows us to paint a precise picture of global commercial real estate conditions and trends. It allows us to recognize opportunities quickly and take advantage of them.

Our mission is to deliver consistently superior results by:

- Always putting the client first
- Bringing the best talent to every assignment
- Collaborating across markets and service lines
- Capitalizing on the depth of our market information and insight



OMP Mechtron

OMP Mechtron S.p.A. is one of the main European manufacturers of Mechatronic, and specializes in the production, electronic integration and wiring of 19" Rack and ETSI Cabinets, Modular 19" Subracks, as well as CPCI and metric Subracks. OMP employs approximately 280 people in four plants in Italy, China, Mexico, and the USA as well as in its sales offices around the world. OMP Mechtron S.p.A. is present in various industrial sectors and markets such as railways, telecommunications, automation, energy, and electronics. OMP Mechtron LLC is the American branch of the company, and it was established on July 30th 2013. The plant is located in Batesburg, SC, and it employs around 60 people. The aim of OMP Mechtron LLC is to serve the American market and to take advantage of the synergies with the mechanical engineering plant recently opened in Guadalajara (Mx). The South Carolina company is the main partner for wiring and electronic integration. Moreover, the opening of a site in the United States is part of a whole business strategy whose core is OMP Mechtron's need to diversify its business by opening up to some expanding markets such as the transport market. OMP Mechtron LLC reinforces the Group's strategy which is to be present in the three key business areas of the world to equally serve its customers in Europe, Asia and America.

GOLD SPONSORS



Duke Energy Carolinas

Duke Energy makes life better for millions of people every day by providing electric and gas services in a sustainable way – affordable, reliable, and clean. We are the largest electric power holding company in the United States, supplying and delivering energy to approximately 7.2 million U.S. customers. We have approximately 57,500 megawatts of electric generating capacity in the Carolinas, the Midwest, and Florida – and natural gas distribution services in Ohio and Kentucky. Our commercial and international businesses own and operate diverse power generation assets in North America and Latin America, including a portfolio of renewable energy assets. Headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Duke Energy is a Fortune 250 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK.



Hofmann Services

Hofmann Services is a leading international provider of professional employment services. The company was founded in 1985 by Mrs. Ingrid Hofmann in Nuremberg, Germany. We have over 20,000 employees working in over 100 locations across five countries in fields ranging from industrial to office, sales to engineering, IT and more. Our locations in the USA are as follows:

- Atlanta, GA (Headquarters)
- Greenville, SC
- Chattanooga, TN
- Houston, TX



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.

GOLD SPONSORS



S&ME

S&ME delivers engineering design and consulting services for infrastructure, development, and the environment. Founded in 1973, we have grown to a 950-person corporation operating from 26 locations. S&ME is wholly owned by its employees who remain faithful to our core values of safety, quality, honesty and integrity. We believe that engineering and technical services must be directed by professionals having significant experience relevant to client needs and so we build teams to fit projects. Our goal is to provide practical solutions to our clients engineering, construction, and environmental challenges. We care about our clients and devote our abundant resources and technical expertise to helping them safely and efficiently meet their objectives.



STEAG

STEAG Energy Services LLC has had a presence in the United States since 1992, and moved to the city of Kings Mountain, NC, in 2007. There, STEAG transformed the vacant Anvil Knitting and Dye mill into a rapidly growing production facility serving power plants throughout the continent. STEAG provides cost-effective engineering and consulting solutions that enable some of the nation's largest energy producers to meet stringent environmental regulations.

STEAG Energy Services LLC is part of the STEAG group, which offers integrated solutions in the fields of power and heat generation, as well as technical services. The group's total installed capacity is around 9,400 megawatts, and is based on both fossil and renewable sources of energy. From them, we draw on decades of engineering experience related to selective catalytic reduction (SCR) installations, flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) systems and ammonia injection technology.

STEAG is a leader in SCR management and catalyst regeneration. Our facility occupies over 360,000 square feet and contains a state-of-the-art bench scale reactor, which allows us to replicate the actual operating conditions of a full-scale SCR reactor. We also provide x-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis and other analysis services on-site.

STEAG believes in corporate responsibility and community involvement. We are proud to give back to the city of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, and the greater Charlotte area. Because of our efforts, STEAG received the Mayor's International Community Award in 2008, and was awarded 2011 Industry of the Year by the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce.

We support international collaborative organizations like the Transatlantic Climate Bridge Initiative, bringing Germans and Americans together to address energy security. STEAG also sits on the board of directors for the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

SILVER SPONSORS



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.



NUTKAO

Nutkao, founded in Italy in 1982 by Giuseppe Braida, is involved in the production of nut-based chocolate spread (similar to the more famous Nutella) and chocolate intermediate products for the confectionery industry like liquid chocolate, chocolate drops and chocolate spreads for stuffing.

From the early 1990's, the company started its international expansion reaching a leadership position in the private label segment all over the world. The sales spread across 45 countries (of which 23 are outside the EU).

Nutkao's business is segmented in three areas:

- retail: Private Label chocolate spreads co-packed for the retail channel
- industry: supply of intermediate products to chocolate and confectionary companies
- wholesale: supply of chocolate-based intermediate products to wholesalers serving the pastry and bakery shops

In terms of geography:

- the Italian market accounts for about 55% of total sales
- exports (represented almost exclusively by retail spreads) represent the remaining 45%
- Nutkao is mainly focused on Private Label production for retail chains (87% of total retail spread sales); the Company operates also under its own brands in Italy (13%)

In late 2014, Nutkao will opening a new facility in Nash County that will produce Hazelnut spreads for the Nafta area.



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 U.S. and years of experience in the field of custom-made and standard connection elements for numerous industries and sectors, speak for themselves.

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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.

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