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SOUTH CAROLINA-ISRAEL COLLABORATION TO BE ANNOUNCED
July 27-28 Events to Showcase Potential and Plans

The South Carolina-Israel Collaboration--- a major initiative of the state's research universities, industries, and economic development agencies as well as the Israeli government---will be announced during a series of events during the week of July 27th in the Upstate, Midlands, and Low Country.

Coordinated by the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region (AICC), the Collaboration is supported through a grant by Charleston-based The InterTech Group. According to the organizers, it is being built around six identified clusters of strength in South Carolina and Israel where there is the strong potential of synergy and relevance to businesses and researchers in the state: Biomedical, Advanced Materials, Sustainable Systems, Transportation, Defense / Security, and Insurance / Health IT.

Through this series of education events, the Collaboration's partners will share their plans to strengthen South Carolina's economy through business and research partnerships with Israel; examples of how Israel has become the "Start-up Nation" with the world's top entrepreneurial innovation economy; case studies of an Israeli company establishing an operation in the state or a South Carolina company finding success in the Israeli market; collaborative research between South Carolina and Israeli universities; and a week-long economic and trade mission to Israel in November for a delegation of South Carolina's industry and scientific leaders. These events will be held at the Greenville Chamber of Commerce on July 27 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am; at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce on July 27 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm; and at the SCRA in Charleston on July 28 from 10:00 am to noon.

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“South Carolina does not have much recognition in Israel, but that is going to change very soon. I have never seen such an outstanding group of universities, economic development entities, and private sector working so well together, and I’m confident that industries and researchers in the state will embrace this dynamic Collaboration that shows so much potential,” said AICC President Tom Glaser. The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce (www.aiccse.org) is a bi-national business association with the mission of increasing economic development by fostering understanding, cooperation, and business relationships between Israel and the Southeast. Since its founding in 1992, the Chamber has been involved in completed transactions valued at almost \$1 billion, creating jobs and benefiting the economies of both Israel and the Southeast.

According to New Carolina’s George Fletcher, “Israel has the most innovative economy on earth. This trade mission provides a great opportunity to share business and research relationships with our counterparts in Israel.”

In addition to AICC, partners in this effort include Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, and the Medical University of South Carolina; the Chambers of Commerce in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston; the Jewish Federations in the state; the US–Israel Science and Technology Foundation; New Carolina; SCRA; the Charleston Regional Development Alliance; the American Israel Educational Institute; the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast; and the Israel Economic Mission.

“From our company’s experiences, Israel is an amazing country in which to do business and find innovation. Israel is already an important trade partner for our state, and we’ve been impressed by the business and research potential that can elevate the economies of both South Carolina and Israel,” said Jonathan Zucker, President of The InterTech Group who is chairman of the South Carolina-Israel Collaboration.

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