

New Marine Manufacturer Relocates to Flagler County

Flagler County's Economic Opportunity Department announced the relocation of Gioia Sails Southern Division to Flagler County.

The company, headquartered in Lakewood New Jersey, is relocating its Florida operation here and has purchased a new facility at 5 Hargrove Grade in Palm Coast. They currently have 30 employees and will be hiring an additional 8 to 10 over the next year. Gioia Sails manufactures canvas sailing products and works closely with another Flagler County employer, Sea Ray Boats.

"This is one of the initiatives that our office has been working diligently to develop, the clustering technique, whereby new businesses relocate to the area to support existing businesses and vice versa," County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. "Additionally, the expansion of Sea Ray is good news for our newest manufacturer."

The company expects to begin renovations at the new site and open for business in the next six weeks. Gioia Sails South LLC provides boat and yacht canvas, interior, furniture and enclosures for manufacturers as well as owners of any type of marine vessels. Gioia Sails has decades of experience manufacturing marine components for yacht makers like SeaRay, Regal, and The Luhrs Marine Group. The plan for the Flagler County facility includes expanding its operation to produce awnings and provide re-upholstering services.

"We are happy to be locating in Flagler County," Don Gioia said. "We had a very productive interaction with the County Department of Economic Opportunity, the Bunnell Economic Development and the City of Palm Coast Building Department. Flagler County is business friendly and it is good to be located near a major manufacturing company that we supply."

Director of Flagler County's Economic Opportunity Department, Helga van Eckert said the company is a perfect match for Flagler County. "It has been a pleasure working with Don Gioia and Pat Moynihan over the past six months," van Eckert said. "Gioia Sails Southern Division is a reputable company that will be a great addition to our manufacturing base."

Pat Moynihan, Vice President of Gioia Sails South explained, "Our five year plan for the company is to expand our boating industry services and customer base throughout Florida as well as gain a stronger presence in customization and reupholstering throughout the country."

“We are excited about this firm’s decision to invest in Palm Coast,” Palm Coast Mayor Jon Netts said. “We will help to ensure smooth sailing from their previous location.”

The announcement is the fourth manufacturing success story for Flagler County’s newly created Economic Opportunity Department. Designs For Health, a health supplement company located an operation in Flagler County last year and now has 17 employees. WP Rawl, a vegetable growing, shipping and processing company followed shortly thereafter and is constructing a 34,000 square foot processing facility in west Flagler County. In February, Coastal Cloud LLC., an internet technology company opened its doors with a ceremony attend by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

“We are proud of the progress we have been able to make in economic development in Flagler County in the past year,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “Flagler County is being recognized as open for business and that will help hold down the tax rate for our residents.”