

Our Opinion: The way it works

Cooperation and good facilities helped attract Bing

1 • Published: February 13, 2011 2:00AM

The relocation of California-based Bing Energy Inc.'s operations to Tallahassee appears to be a major coup for this community and its effort to attract viable, clean-energy business.

Clean energy is at the center of a highly competitive arena and successful players have the potential to generate well-paying jobs and valuable activity for support vendors and businesses.

This announcement Thursday brings national attention to Leon County. But it also highlights the importance of a concerted effort by the Economic Development Council of Leon County, Innovation Park and our local governments and universities to make Leon County attractive to outside businesses.

Efforts such as these are critical to improving the local economy — and quite a lure to companies that find themselves struggling with high taxes and broken economies in states such as California and Illinois.

Most important is the expectation that Bing Energy's move to Tallahassee could result in the creation of up to 250 jobs over the next five years.

Tallahasseean Dean Minardi, its CFO, said they expect to fill 12 positions right away. An incentive for a targeted industry of this type meeting its jobs forecast would be a \$1,952,000 rebate from state and local governments to apply toward tax liabilities it incurs here.

One of the main attractions for Bing Energy was the existing research being done at Florida State's High Performance Materials Institute and the Center for Advanced Power Systems, where FAMU-FSU Engineering professor Jim P. Zheng is principle investigator of the technology Bing will build upon.

Another key element here is the job-training component made available at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Tallahassee Community College. While Workforce Plus will help Bing identify potential employees, the TCC center

will provide training specific to the needs of Bing's operation.

As Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Economic Development Council, points out, this fits in with the council's mission to identify businesses in the energy and transportation sector that might consider moving operations to Tallahassee.

Already located here is Danfoss Turbocor, which builds air conditioning compressors recently saluted by the Manufacturers Association of Florida. An outgrowth of that business is Verdicorp Inc., which will develop renewable energy power plants. Another startup success story is Global CNC Solutions, a precision machine shop that creates parts to engineers' specifications. Last month, High Performance Magnetics broke ground on a plant at the Tallahassee airport, where it will build superconducting magnet components for a fusion power plant in Europe.

Gov. Rick Scott applauded the decision by Bing to relocate to Florida. We hope that he recognizes the importance of what is happening in Tallahassee and provides state universities with funding to offer students the training needed to be prepared for the future job market.

Advertisement



Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

momslime.com
where Local moms meet

