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NEWS ARTICLE: Access North Georgia on June 4, 2013

BITZER hosts grand opening in Oakwood



Bitzer U.S. president Peter Narreau said at ground breaking for the expansion in March 2012 the Georgia tax reform measure exempting sales tax on energy for manufacturing is important.

OAKWOOD - BITZER, a leading manufacturer of compressors for commercial refrigeration and air conditioning, hosted a grand opening Tuesday at its 95,000 square foot North American Headquarters on 31 acres on Enterprise Way in Oakwood.

BITZER located to Hall County in 2004. The German-based company was founded in 1934, and has two U.S. locations – Syracuse N.Y. and Oakwood.

At a groundbreaking for the expansion in March 2012, company officials said they expect to add 50 new jobs in two years.

BITZER US has been a large part of the company's growth and strategy. In 1999 Peter Schaufler began BITZER US in Oakwood as its first North American independent subsidiary to sell compressors. By 2005, BITZER US began local production of reciprocating compressors with 25 employees. Over the next eight years, Schaufler continued to invest in the Oakwood facility turning it into the North American Headquarters.

In 2012, Schaufler invested approximately \$10 million in a new plant and equipment to support the increase in production required to meet the demand. Additional 2012 acquisitions and investments in Georgia totaling more than \$5 million in 2013 will grow BITZER US operations by expanding its product portfolio and building a new production line in its previous facility.

The new \$10 million facility was developed by Pattillo Construction Company. BITZER also maintains the adjacent 45,000 square foot facility on Chamblee Road. BITZER US now employs over 120 people in the Hall County area with more long term growth planned on the horizon.