

Elkhart, Indiana Company Expanding to Work Hand-in-hand with DaimlerChrysler

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Midway Specialty Vehicles, a customized commercial vehicle upfitter headquartered in Elkhart, Indiana, is expanding operations in the Charleston region and creating a Sprinter Division that will focus on upfitting DaimlerChrysler's Sprinter vans. The expansion was facilitated by the Charleston Regional Development Alliance and will bring more than 25 jobs to area residents, plus the possibility of additional future growth.

"As Sprinter van production grows, so will we," Mike Violi, President / CEO of the Sprinter Division of Midway Specialty Vehicles says. "Sprinter is projecting yearly growth, and they are perfect vehicles for special applications, especially as more companies are looking at fuel economy and investing in vans with a much longer life cycle."

Midway Specialty Vehicles will be converting the Sprinters into work vans with various shelving packages, hotel commuter vans, airport parking lot shuttle vans, home delivery refrigeration vans and any other uses that will help the end users to better do their job in the field. Current users of Midway services include FedEx, FedEx Home Delivery, Penske and Ryder Rental.

"We saw the potential for the Sprinter vans when they debuted in 2001," Violi says. "When the DaimlerChrysler plant located right down the street, it made for a perfect partnership. We are able to efficiently upfit the vans exactly as the end customer would like, which will increase overall sales of the Sprinters."

"The partnership between Midway Specialty Vehicles and DaimlerChrysler is a win-win for the region," Alliance Chairman William A. "Bill" Finn says. "Both facilities are hiring area workers and are poised for more growth. I know this will be the first of many companies to expand or locate here as a result of DaimlerChrysler's presence."

"Our congratulations to Midway Specialty Vehicles in choosing Charleston County for their new facility," said Timothy E. Scott, Chairman of Charleston County Council. "Just a week ago the DaimlerChrysler Sprinter assembly plant was dedicated, and I marveled at the new career opportunities that facility would represent for our community. I also appreciate the great potential that the Sprinter has in so many specialized niches of the North American automotive market, and Midway Specialty Vehicles decision today illustrates that potential and the additional great developments in store for Charleston."

"Today's announcement is another boost to the ever-growing automotive sector in our state. As production and sales of the Sprinter van continue to grow, so do opportunities and jobs connected with this industry. Thanks to the team efforts of the State Department of Commerce, the Charleston Regional Alliance, and all the local officials, the Charleston area continues to enjoy the benefits of DaimlerChrysler's growing presence," said Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce.

About Midway Specialty Vehicles

Midway Specialty Vehicles, LLC. is a true customized commercial van upfitter. Throughout the years, the company has always worked with the customer to develop solutions to specific transportation needs in lieu of trying to make the customer needs fit the existing product line. The customization process, starting with salesman inquiry then through engineering and design with the customer and finally product implementation ensures that customers receive the best product to satisfy their needs.

www.mymidway.com

About the Charleston Regional Development Alliance

The Charleston Regional Development Alliance represents Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties with a mission to create improved opportunities for all residents within this three-county region. Working with a statewide network of allies, the Alliance markets Charleston to the world as a preferred location for business, and helps to facilitate new investment within the three-county area. To learn more, go to www.charleston-for-business.com.

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