

## **International Company Joins Growing Automotive Cluster in Charleston Region**

For Immediate Release – July 19, 2007

July 19, 2007 – TWL Precision Ltd., a worldwide supplier of precision automotive components, is opening its North American Corporate Office in the Charleston region. The company and its parent, VTL Group, are headquartered in West Yorkshire, England and serve the world's leading engineering and automotive companies. They are a key precision component supplier for Toyota in Europe, and the new Charleston-area facility will supply their growing North American customer base including Cummins Turbo Technologies. TWL will be locating in Charleston County's Landmark Business Park with a \$4 million capital investment.

"This new facility gives TWL a valuable foothold in North America," said Chris Elliott, Managing Director of TWL Precision Ltd. "We considered several other sites in Georgia, Mexico and Indianapolis. The Charleston region seemed the perfect choice due to its proximity to our existing customer base, the support of the local government agencies and the growing demand for engineering products in the region."

TWL will employ more than 70 people with just a few technical personnel relocating from the UK to ensure local support is available. The company typically pays in the top third of manufacturing salaries.

TWL is already planning for future growth by securing additional land for expansion at its new Charleston County site. Bruno Jouan, Group Chairman, said, "Establishing this facility in the Charleston region is part of VTL's wider strategy of manufacturing products close to the customer, improving service and quality and cutting logistics costs. This facility is the first overseas plant for us, but certainly not the last!"

This new corporate headquarters was facilitated by the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. "This is a testament to the power of industry clusters," Alliance Chairman Robert Pratt said. "TWL is just the latest world-class company to see the value in locating a facility among other leading automotive suppliers. We welcome them to our growing automotive hub."

"Our congratulations go out to TWL Precision on their decision to establish operations in North Charleston," said Timothy E. Scott, Chairman of Charleston County Council. "The entry of a highly skilled international automotive supplier such as TWL Precision boosts the bar ever higher in our region's automotive sector. It is proof-positive that the business assets of the Charleston region continue to make it a viable world-wide location for manufacturing."

"We believe the company will be well pleased with their decision," said Keith Summey, Mayor of North Charleston. "We are confident they will find both a quality of life which makes North Charleston a great place to live, as well as a supportive and growing business structure for their continued success."

"Once again, our state's market access, quality infrastructure, and skilled workforce are working to create opportunity in South Carolina. Thanks to the team efforts of the state, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, and all the local officials, South Carolina will enjoy a benefit from this investment for years to come," said Joe Taylor, Secretary of Commerce.

### **About TWL Precision Ltd.**

The world's leading engineering and automotive companies choose TWL Precision to supply their precision component needs. TWL Precision is a British company based in West Yorkshire, England, an area rich in industrial heritage. It specializes in high volume tier one and two manufacturing of precision

machined components for the automotive and industrial markets. TWL Precision is part of the VTL group of companies. From a single company in 2001, VTL Group has grown organically and through acquisition into a diversified organization. Today the company employs 250 people across Europe, Asia and North America with sales of \$70 million.

To learn more, visit us at [www.vtl-group.com](http://www.vtl-group.com)

*Photographs available*

#### **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](http://www.charleston-for-business.com).

#### **Company Media Contact:**

Keith Robertshaw, Group Sales Director

+44 8700 841 028

[Keith.Robertshaw@vtl-group.com](mailto:Keith.Robertshaw@vtl-group.com)

#### **Alliance Media Contact:**

Melissa Whetzel

843-259-4631

[mwhetzel@crda.org](mailto:mwhetzel@crda.org)