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Bridgestone's Aiken facility celebrates production of 100-millionth tire

Bridgestone's S.C. facility this week produced its 100-millionth tire since beginning operations in 1999. In 2011, the company announced two phases of expansion totaling more than \$1 billion that will increase production capacity by 37,750 tires per day.

Staff Report

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The 100-millionth tire rolled off the production line this week at [Bridgestone Americas' \(http://bridgestoneamericas.com/\)](#) light truck manufacturing facility in Aiken County.

The milestone was marked on Tuesday during a celebration at the plant attended by state and local officials, Bridgestone executives and employees.

Previous coverage

- [Bridgestone to spend \\$1.2 billion, build new facility in Aiken \(http://www.columbiabusinessreport.com/news/41082-bridgestone-to-spend-1-2-billion-build-new-facility-in-aiken\)](http://www.columbiabusinessreport.com/news/41082-bridgestone-to-spend-1-2-billion-build-new-facility-in-aiken)

excellence now for 100 million tires, and we plan to do the same for 100 million more.”

The 100-millionth tire was a Bridgestone Dueler A/T RH-S, one of the company's light truck, SUV and CUV tires. The tire was signed by guests attending the event and will be displayed in the plant's welcome lobby.

“Our company takes great pride in the work of our Aiken County teammates,” said Barry Owens, Bridgestone's vice president of manufacturing. “Consumers throughout North America have benefited from the quality products these teammates produce and we look forward to serving those consumers well for many years to come with products made right here in Aiken County.”

“Our teammates here in Aiken are dedicated to making the best products possible every day,” said plant manager John Stewart. “It's a reflection of our company's global philosophy, which we call the Bridgestone Way. We have upheld the same commitment to

The Aiken facility, which produces radial passenger and light truck tires, began operations in 1999 and employs 950 workers.

In 2011, the company announced two phases of a \$1.3 billion expansion for the plant that will increase production capacity by 37,750 tires per day or 13.4 million tires annually. The first production tire is projected to be produced in the expansion areas during the second quarter of 2013. The expansion projects are expected to create more than 300 new full-time and contractor jobs in Aiken County when fully completed in 2015.

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