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SOUTHERN IONICS MINERALS MOVING HEADQUARTERS TO PIERCE COUNTY AS NEW PRESIDENT LOOKS TO FUTURE GROWTH

Offerman, Georgia – Southern Ionics Minerals, LLC will move its headquarters to Offerman, Ga. and expand its operations, bringing more economic development opportunities to southeast Georgia, according to the company’s new president.

Stuart Forrester, newly appointed president of Southern Ionics Minerals, LLC, foresees a greater presence in southeast Georgia with increased mineral development activities. The relocation of Southern Ionics’ headquarters from Jacksonville, Fla., to Offerman, Ga. underscores the area’s importance to the mineral sands company.

Forrester, a native of Western Australia, joined Southern Ionics Minerals in April of 2017. He has 15 years of experience in the mining industry and most recently oversaw Iluka’s mineral sand operations in Virginia.

“I’m really excited to join Southern Ionics Minerals and relocate to Georgia with my young family. We have an outstanding team and an innovative approach to mining and reclamation. There’s tremendous opportunity to bring long-term prosperity to rural southeast Georgia by developing these natural resources,” Forrester explained.

An early direction, along with moving the company’s headquarters to Pierce County, is to increase purchases from local vendors and suppliers. Forrester said the local communities have been very supportive. “Currently, we source about 56% of our goods and services from Georgia-based businesses, and we’d like to increase that amount. The local contractors and vendors are of the highest quality.”

The company has become an important economic influence in Pierce, Charlton, and Brantley counties, where it currently employs approximately 140 people and has strong relationships with many local businesses.

Milton Sundbeck, the founder of Southern Ionics Minerals and its parent company Southern Ionics Inc. reiterated the company’s commitment to south Georgia. “We’ve worked hard to operate responsibly and earn the community’s trust. We want to be here for decades to come.” Priority will also be given to developing new products, utilizing new mining technology, and opening new mines, he said.

Opening new mines is critical to meeting that long-term commitment. In the next month Southern Ionics Minerals will apply for a permit for a mine next to its existing Mission Mine. Additionally, the company is investigating other potential mining locations. “The mineral sand deposits of southeast Georgia constitute a world-class resource. The deposits are well-known, but we have to conduct extensive evaluation and environmental assessment to determine which ones can be economically developed,” said Forrester.

Southern Ionics Minerals began mining mineral sand deposits in 2014. Its facilities include an administrative office in Jacksonville, a mining office in Brantley County, the Mission South Mine in Charlton County, and a mineral sand processing plant in Pierce County. Sand extracted at the mine is transported to the plant where titanium and zirconium mineral sands are sold to companies that manufacture pigments and paints, aircraft engines, medical devices, welding rods, and other products.

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