

## Data Centers

Our world is becoming increasingly digitized which also means the need for reliable data centers is essential and growing. Why not grow in the NESA Region of South Carolina? The Region is well positioned to accommodate growth in the data center industry and offers numerous sites that meet or exceed the infrastructure requirements specified by most data centers. Our region has sites that are considered fault tolerant/concurrently maintainable given their utility infrastructure and excess capacities.

### Why locate your data center in the NESA Region?

#### **Fiber Optic Network**

The NESA Region is served by AT&T, Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Horry Telephone Cooperative, Time Warner Cable and Verizon. All of the above providers offer fast and reliable fiber optic networks. Self-healing networks are available for large industrial sites and data centers. SONET is available at many sites in the region.

#### **Electricity**

NESA realizes that having a reliable supply of electricity is a necessity for data center operations. The counties that compose the NESA Region are served by both Progress Energy and the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper via Horry Electric Cooperative, Lynches River Electric Cooperative, Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, and Santee Electric Cooperative.

- Electricity rates in South Carolina are 25% below the national average at \$0.0471 per kilowatt hour versus \$0.0616.\*
- A special rate schedule for data center operations is offered by some utility providers.
- Many of the sites in the NESA Region are dual served sites.
- Uninterruptable power solutions (UPS) and backup power generation are available.

*\*U.S. Energy Information Administration*

#### **Water & Wastewater**

Most of the sites in the region have millions of gallons per day in excess water and wastewater capacity. Some of our sites sit atop aquifers which provide unlimited supplies of clean water for cooling.

#### **Potential State Incentives for Data Centers**

- **Retail Facility Rehabilitation Credits** - Corporate income tax credit for renovation, improvement and redevelopment of abandoned retail facilities in South Carolina. The taxpayer is given the ability to decide whether to claim the income tax credit or the real property tax credit.
- **Job Tax Credits (JTC)** – By creating jobs in South Carolina, companies may be eligible for a tax credit against state income tax liability. Five of the nine counties represented by NESA meet the criteria for the maximum amount of JTCs allowable.
- **Corporate Income Tax Moratorium** – Companies that create “net” new jobs in economically distressed areas are granted a moratorium on corporate income taxes. Qualifying companies can completely eliminate state corporate income tax liability for 10-15 years.
- **Job Development Credits (JDC)** – JDCs are discretionary incentives that can address specific needs of individual companies. The credit provides a rebate of employee wages subject to South Carolina withholding tax and can be used to offset certain approved expenses such as real property costs, workforce training or infrastructure.
- **Sales and Use Tax Exemption** – South Carolina exempts long distance telecommunications services, including 800 services, from sales and use taxes.

## Hourly Wage Rate Comparison

Occupation	SC	USA	% Above/Below National Average
Computer Programmers	\$26.82	\$31.50	-14.9%
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	\$32.93	\$38.36	-14.2%
Computer Software Engineers, System Software	\$33.31	\$41.04	-18.8%
Computer Support Specialists	\$17.67	\$19.94	-11.4%
Computer Systems Analysts	\$29.68	\$33.54	-11.5%
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$24.82	\$29.87	-16.9%
Computer and Mathematical Science Occupations	\$26.26	\$31.80	-17.4%
Database Administrators	\$27.13	\$31.09	-12.7%
Electrical Engineers	\$36.34	\$36.50	-0.4%

Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce, 2008

## Custom Workforce Training Service

The first facility of its kind in the United States, the **Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT)** provides the support needed by area and future industries to advance the region's ability to provide a highly trained workforce. Made possible by partnerships with businesses and industries, this facility features an Advanced Manufacturing Center, a Virtual Reality Center and a National Robotics Center. SiMT offers open-enrollment, on-site and customized training as well as startup assistance and consulting services.

**ReadySC** develops, implements and manages custom workforce training programs to support smooth, rapid startup of operations. A division of the S.C. Technical College System, ReadySC is a pre-employment training program provided at no cost to employers and is 100% customized to fit the needs of new and existing businesses.

## Qualified Workforce

- Population base of over 680,000 with a labor draw of over 340,000 workers
- The region is home to seven colleges and universities and is fully committed to promoting educational opportunities.
- South Carolina has one of the lowest unionization rates in the nation at 4.1%.

