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CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL

EXCLUSIVE REPORTS

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Italian firm is expanding its U.S. HQ here

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An Italian manufacturing company is expanding its Charlotte-based U.S. headquarters by 12,000 square feet and hopes to add as many as 25 people by year end.

[Bucci Industries USA](#) now employs about 45 in Charlotte occupying 22,000 square feet at 9332 Forsyth Park Drive in the Steele Creek Park business park off Westinghouse Boulevard. It hopes to complete the expansion by mid-August, says Manfred Sprenger, Bucci executive vice president in Charlotte.

The growth is a consequence of Bucci's taking over its own distribution functions, which have been handled by a company out of St. Louis, Mo.

As of the start of 2006, Bucci, until recently known as IGM USA Inc., will handle its own distribution, sales, service and support out of the Charlotte location, he says.

Bucci moved to Charlotte from Congers, N.Y., in 2001. It's part of a family of companies under the umbrella of Faenza, Italy-based Bucci Industries Group, which includes such divisions as Iemca, Giuliani, Sinteco and Riba Composites.

In the United States, the company designs and produces automatic bar feeders for single- and multiple-spindle lathes. Products include parts and materials systems for loading and unloading machine tools.

Its other divisions specialize in fields that include the automotive, hydraulic and mechanical industries, as well as manufacturing systems for high-speed assembly of small- and medium-sized products and the production of composite materials used in aerospace and high-performance vehicles.

"Charlotte continues to be a manufacturing center," says Justin Hunt, Charlotte Chamber vice president of headquarters and international development.

Hunt and Terry Orell, the chamber's senior vice president for business growth, have been assisting Bucci for more than a year in planning the expansion.

"Charlotte continues to be attractive to what I would call high-end manufacturing," Hunt says. "This is not a low-end product."

Bucci also represents another example of foreign-owned companies making a mark on the local economy. "They come here with a small presence, put down roots and then expand," Hunt says. "We continue to attract foreign manufacturing."

Crescent Metal Construction is general contractor at the Steele Creek building. Local architect Ray Cathey is handling architectural and engineering services. The building is owned by Ray Bell of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

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