

GEM PARENT COMPANY TO OPEN PLANT IN TOCCOA

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A local industry is expanding in Stephens County and bringing more jobs here in the process. ITR Industries, Inc. parent company of Gem Industries, Inc., will open a fabrication facility in Toccoa this summer, according to Stephens County Development Authority director Mitch Griggs. "They are going to be making steel bath partitions for public and commercial restrooms," Griggs said.

Production will focus on fabricating, warehousing, and distributing the partitions and complements the Gem facilities. This will be the third location for ITR, whose Gem subsidiary has two manufacturing plants in Stephens County, on Highway 123 and in the Meadowbrook Industrial Park.

Griggs says the company will make a \$5 million investment in the facility, which will be located in the former Gilbert & Bennett building. The Company hopes to open in July with an immediate staff of 65 workers. They plan to increase that number to 100 as the market grows, according to ITR Industries owner and CEO Peter Rolla.