

# News Release

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#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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# Charleston County to offer pre-employment information meetings for citizens interested in working for Mercedes-Benz Vans

Meeting will connect Charleston County residents with training opportunities to find their career path at Mercedes-Benz Vans

Charleston County will host two meetings to connect Charleston County residents with training ahead of the Mercedes-Benz Vans plant expansion opening in the second half of 2018. The meetings are for residents of Charleston County. Manufacturing experience is not required to attend the pre-employment information meetings.

The first meeting will be Thursday, January 18, 2018 at North Charleston High School, located at 1087 East Montague Avenue, North Charleston, S.C. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the session will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Registration is required and space is limited to 800 attendees. All information can be found at <a href="https://www.chooseCharleston.org">www.chooseCharleston.org</a>.

The second meeting will be held Saturday, January 20, 2018 at St. John's High School, located at 1518 Main Road, Johns Island, S.C. Doors open at 9 a.m. and the session will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Registration is required and space is limited to 450 attendees. All information can be found at <a href="https://www.chooseCharleston.org">www.chooseCharleston.org</a>.

Through a partnership with South Carolina Department of Commerce, Trident Technical College, Mercedes-Benz Vans, readySC<sup>TM</sup> and Charleston County, curriculum and pathways have been created to provide Charleston County residents with the necessary qualifications for manufacturing positions. The meetings will give those interested in working for Mercedes-Benz Vans an opportunity to learn valuable information that could help them attain a position with the company.

The new Mercedes-Benz Vans Sprinter plant is located off Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston and will continue hiring for body, paint, assembly and maintenance positions throughout 2018, creating up to 1,300 jobs by the end of the decade in Charleston County.

## **Mercedes-Benz Vans Media Contact:**

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#### **QUOTES**

"Business and economic development in South Carolina is a team sport, and events like these upcoming Mercedes-Benz Vans information meetings are a testament to that. Through collaboration between various local and state partners, Mercedes-Benz Vans will be connected with a large pool of skilled workers. And, as a result, we'll be able to ensure that South Carolinians fill these jobs, adding to our reputation as a state that's 'Just right' for manufacturing." **–Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt** 

"Charleston County was elated to be chosen as the optimum NAFTA location for Mercedes-Benz Vans in 2015. We have and will continue to be a partner to ensure their new facility achieves great success. Hosting an information meeting to

connect our residents with career opportunities is an incredible example of our dedication to serving our community." - Charleston County Council Chairman Victor Rawl

"Our team at Mercedes-Benz Vans is writing history by building the Sprinter van part by part in the U.S. for the first time ever. We want the citizens of Charleston County and surrounding areas to share in our excitement and become part of that story themselves." – Mercedes-Benz Vans President & CEO Michael Balke

#### **FIVE FAST FACTS**

- Mercedes-Benz Vans, part of the Daimler Group, is establishing a full production plant in addition to existing assembly operations in North Charleston.
- Information meetings will be held for Charleston County residents on January 18 and January 20 to discuss possible career paths at Mercedes-Benz Vans.
- Registration is required and information can be found at <u>www.ChooseCharleston.org</u>
- Mercedes-Benz Vans will grow to a team of up to 1,300 by the end of the decade.
- Further information of Mercedes-Benz Vans can be found at <u>www.MBVCharleston.com</u>.

## About Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC ("MBV") is a plant in North Charleston, South Carolina that assembles Sprinter vans for the U.S. market under the brands Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner. The midsize Metris van was added to the assembly line in 2015. The current assembly process, referred to as "semi-knockdown," involves the re-assembly of vans originally produced in Germany and Spain and partially disassembled for shipping to the U.S. Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC announced in March 2015 that it will invest \$500 million in construction of a new Sprinter production plant, in addition to an expansion of existing operations. In July 2016, MBV officially broke ground on the site of its new plant, located next to existing operations in the North Charleston area. The MBV facility will provide up to 1,300 jobs by the end of the decade. MBV values its longstanding relationship with Charleston County government leaders, the South Carolina Ports Authority and our growing network of local suppliers in contributing to economic growth in the region.

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- Prepared by the Public Information Office -