

**Southeast Kentucky  
Economic Development**  
A Regional Growth Corporation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HHS Grant Will Help Create More Jobs in Lake Cumberland Area**

SOMERSET, Ky. – Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED) has been awarded a \$741,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services to assist a Russell County manufacturer expand its operations and create new jobs in the Lake Cumberland area.

SKED will loan the funds to Dr. Schneider Automotive Systems, a Germany-based automotive supplier that's been operating in the Russell County Industrial Park since April. The business announced it will create 155 full-time jobs when fully operational. Funds recaptured by the loan to this business will be used to invest in other businesses across SKED's 45-county service area.

The Russell County workforce has been hit hard in recent months. When officials with the Jamestown Fruit of the Loom plant announced they would move that operation to South America taking its 600 jobs with it, SKED began working with the Russell County Industrial Development Authority (RCIDA) looking for ways to stem the tide of job loss.

“SKED is pleased to partner with Dr. Schneider and the RCIDA on this expansion project and for the valuable support of the U.S. Department for Health & Human Services Office of Community Services,” said SKED Executive Director Brett Traver. “Together, we're working to create new jobs in Russell County. The employment opportunities Dr. Schneider is creating are a step in the right direction to replace some of the jobs lost as a result of the Fruit of the Loom plant closing earlier this year. SKED will continue to lead the way in job creation across our region by working to develop key projects like this one.”



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Dr. Schneider currently employs 75 people, from across the Lake Cumberland area, and will add the balance of their projected 155 employees over the next 12 months, according to RCIDA Executive Director Greg Jones.

“This investment will allow Dr. Schneider Automotive Systems to purchase innovative, high-tech equipment to produce high quality plastic products for some of the world’s leading automotive companies such as BMW, Audi, and Mercedes right here in Russell Springs, Kentucky.” Jones said. “Dr. Schneider announced its decision to locate in Russell Springs just a year ago, and today’s announcement is a testament to the leadership and management skills of Torsten Langguth, and the talent and dedication of its employees.”

Dr. Schneider is an 85-year-old family business with operations around the world. It’s a pioneer in the processing of plastics and produces high-end vent and trim systems for top automotive original equipment manufacturers. The company employs some 2,800 worldwide. The Russell Springs facility is the company’s second U.S. location. It also has a production site in Howell, Mich.

“All of us here at Dr. Schneider would like to express our sincere appreciation for granting this fund,” said Torsten Langguth, plant manager for the Dr. Schneider Automotive Systems Kentucky operation. “The money will help us in the progress, development, and creation of new jobs which will benefit the economic development in our region. We are truly thankful to have people supporting us here in Russell Springs and in Kentucky.”

For more information about Dr. Schneider Automotive Systems and to apply for a position, visit the company’s website: [www.dr-schneider.com/en](http://www.dr-schneider.com/en).

SKED is a non-profit economic development organization and has been designated a Certified Development Corporation (CDC) by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The organization was formed 28 years ago by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers to create jobs in Southeast Kentucky.

Its corporate office is based in Somerset, with satellite locations in Morehead and Whitesburg to serve its 45-county service region. A staff of 10 professionals works with business owners, small and large, to identify financing solutions to fund their location, expansion and



working capital needs, and provide them the technical assistance and training they need to succeed.

For more information about SKED, visit our website: [www.southeastkentucky.com](http://www.southeastkentucky.com).

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