





Textile Manufacturer Re-Opens Plant, Bringing Jobs to South Carolina

For more than a decade, the doors had been shuttered at "The Palmetto Plant" in Darlington, SC. But in 2017, Fiber Industries, a textile manufacturer, began the process of reopening the plant with the promise of bringing at least 135 jobs to the area.

In the town of just over 6,000 people, the jobs were a welcomed arrival. For many former employees, returning to the plant felt like coming home. In fact, about 40 percent of the company's hires worked there previously.

Fiber Industries really had a family-oriented culture, which we're trying to recreate," says Andrew Rosenfeld, CEO and co-owner. "When we were interviewing, people were really engaged in the restart of the plant and wanted to be here. It's unbelievable."

The reopening represents a broader trend that industry observers detect of manufacturing returning to U.S. shores as markets become more favorable for domestic sourcing.



Challenges

- The manufacturer needed to build its technology infrastructure from the ground up.
- Leadership and staff required mobility features to communicate anytime, anywhere.
- One IT staffer serves 130 employees.

"The global cost structure has shifted," Rosenfeld says. "Factors such as labor costs, environmental-stewardship demands in many countries, social responsibility and energy costs have helped drive the return of American manufacturing."

The manufacturer will be producing a range of polyester staple fibers used for making apparel, material for furniture and automotive cushions, diapers and medical products.

Flexible, Reliable Communications for Less Cost

While the owners set out to restore the workforce and culture, Fiber Industries is also stitching together an entirely new technology infrastructure with a focus on efficiency. The owners reached out for help to Telanet, an Avaya partner, to serve as its outsourced information technology team.

For voice communications, Telanet recommended Powered by Avaya IX^{TM} in the Cloud for its track record of reliability, ease of use and fit with the company's budget.

"Powered by Avaya IX^{TM} is really the perfect fit for what we need – reliable, affordable and as user-friendly as possible," Rosenfeld says. "And with a cloud system, we don't need to maintain any hardware."

In fact, the cloud infrastructure saves Fiber Industries over 35 percent of the total cost of an on-premise telephony system and delivers enterprise-class functions such has conferencing, voicemail-to-email, and integration with mobile devices.

© 2019 Avaya Inc. All Rights Reserved.

"Powered by Avaya IX™ is really the perfect fit for what we needed—reliable, affordable and as user-friendly as possible. And with a cloud system, we don't need to maintain any hardware."

- Andrew Rosenfeld. Fiber Industries CEO and co-owner

Value Created

- Fiber Industries saves at least 35 percent over the cost of an on-premise telephony system.
- The cloud infrastructure lightens the load for the sole IT person.
- Without voice hardware, the company can scale more flexibly as it grows.
- Team members receive calls and messages, set up conferencing or use instant messaging anywhere.

For data security in the cloud, Powered by Avaya IX[™] comes with built-in signaling and media encryption for endpoints and unified communications (UC) clients help preserve privacy and data integrity.

A Competitive Advantage

With Powered by Avaya $IX^{\text{\tiny{TM}}}$, team members have access to the same communications capabilities whether they are in the office or not. Using the Avaya $IX^{\text{\tiny{TM}}}$ Workplace application on their mobile devices or laptops, they can receive calls and messages, set up conferencing or use instant messaging anywhere.

With the ability to route calls automatically to their cell phones, executives and managers never miss an important call and only need to give out one number. They also take advantage of voicemail to email, allowing them to reduce the time spent reviewing messages.

The company's sole in-house IT professional—who serves 130 employees—easily configures the system as needed. For more advanced needs, Fiber Industries turns to Telanet.

"We love the Telanet team," Rosenfeld says. "They keep everything running seamlessly and execute in a timely and consistent manner."

As Fiber Industries grows, the cloud solution will keep costs down and the team productive.

"If I run my plant more efficiently with technology, we can operate more efficiently—giving us an advantage," Rosenfeld says.

© 2019 Avaya Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Solutions

- Powered by Avaya IX[™]
- Avaya IX[™] Workplace

About Fiber Industries

A privately-held company, Fiber Industries produces polyester staple fibers for a range of industries. Its mission is to deliver the highest quality products that meet or exceed customers' expectations at the lowest operational cost.

About Avaya

Businesses are built on the experiences they provide and every day millions of those experiences are built by Avaya (NYSE:AVYA). For over one hundred years, we've enabled organizations around the globe to win—by creating intelligent communications experiences for customers and employees. Avaya builds open, converged and innovative solutions to enhance and simplify communications and collaboration—in the cloud, on premise, or a hybrid of both. To grow your business, we're committed to innovation, partnership, and a relentless focus on what's next. We're the technology company you trust to help you deliver Experiences that Matter. Visit us at www.avaya.com.

