

Turning vision into legacy

Kingstree-based Palmetto Synthetics is a fiber manufacturing pioneer

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

ON A COLD FEBRUARY morning 28 years ago, Henry Poston and his business partners stood in an empty bean field in Kingstree. The site had no water or power, but the group had a bold vision. Where others saw obstacles, they saw opportunity.

With determination and hard work, that barren bean field became the foundation for Palmetto Synthetics, a 350,000-square-foot facility that has transformed the fiber manufacturing industry. As CEO, Poston understood the challenge ahead and was ready to make it happen.

Today, Palmetto Synthetics leads the fiber industry, combining innovation with superior service to provide a broad range of specialty thermoplastic fibers. Poston's son, David, now serves as president, carrying forward the vision his father established decades ago.

Finding a home

In 1997, Henry Poston was looking into multiple options for where to establish the company's operation. Originally from Florence County, Poston saw Kingstree as the perfect place to build his company, just a few towns over.

"It seemed like the best option, and that has proven true," says Poston. "Williamsburg County has a great workforce; it was close to home and made the most sense."

From the start, Williamsburg County embraced Palmetto Synthetics, and its workforce quickly became the backbone of operations.

When operations first began, employees trained at Special Schools, now known as ReadySC, to develop the skills



Palmetto Synthetics is a family legacy. Henry Poston (left) and his son David are running the company as CEO and president respectively.

needed for fiber manufacturing. That early investment in workforce development fostered both expertise and lasting loyalty. More than two decades later, many of those first employees remain a vital part of the Palmetto Synthetics family—a testament to the company's strong culture and steady growth.

Now with more than 125 employees and expanding, Palmetto Synthetics continues to invest in its people while actively hiring new talent.

"Our employees are the best around,"



Precision in motion—Rosa Scott, Palmetto Synthetics employee, monitors the line at Palmetto Synthetics.

Palmetto Synthetics

- ▶ Founded in 1997
- ▶ Headquarters in Kingstree
- ▶ Regional agents in China and the UK
- ▶ Thermoplastic fiber manufacturer
- ▶ 125 employees and currently hiring

MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to be the leading global innovator and provider of Specialty Synthetic Fiber while fostering a culture of integrity, dignity and respect for our Team Members, Business Partners, Community, and Environment.

says Poston. "I enjoy going around and talking to everyone and checking in on their families. And they are all hard workers, which can be hard to come by."

An industry pioneer

Palmetto Synthetics prides itself on a workplace built on integrity, dignity and respect—values that extend beyond its employees to its approach to innovation. That same commitment to excellence drives its pioneering work in sustainable manufacturing, where transforming recycled plastic into fiber has redefined waste management in the industry.

"We are in the recycling business,"

PHOTOS BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER



CEO Henry Poston and SEC Economic Development Manager Ronald Carter discuss the fiber manufacturing process inside the Palmetto Synthetics plant.

says Poston. “Our main goal is to make fibers from recycled materials.”

With multiple recycling lines, Palmetto Synthetics repurposes a wide range of materials, including recycled plastic bottles, food packaging, automotive fibers and even internal and customer-generated waste. These materials are pelletized and processed into fibers used in various industries, reinforcing the company’s commitment to reducing landfill waste and promoting a circular economy.

Beyond processing recycled materials, Palmetto Synthetics has played a key role in developing sustainable fiber technology that supports industries seeking

eco-friendly alternatives. By offering custom solutions tailored to specific needs, the company not only meets customer demands but also helps brands reduce their environmental footprint.

As the demand for sustainable materials continues to grow, Palmetto Synthetics remains committed to leading the charge in fiber innovation—proving that sustainability and high-performance manufacturing can go hand in hand.

Along with recycling fibers, it is a specialty manufacturer of synthetic fibers. Unlike mass-market manufacturers, Palmetto Synthetics crafts specialized, made-to-order fibers tailored to unique customer needs

“We have always said we are a by-prescription type manufacturer; we are not the generic brand makers,” says Poston. “If you want something special, we do our best to get the solution for you. It is what sets us apart from others in this industry.”

While Palmetto Synthetics remains rooted in Kingstree, its influence extends far beyond South Carolina. With regional agents in China and the United Kingdom, the company supplies its specialized fibers worldwide, with 25% of production shipping internationally.

A long-term relationship

For the Poston family, Kingstree

is more than just a business location—it’s home. Poston serves on various boards for local organizations, including Williamsburg Technical College, Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault and the Williamsburg County Development Board. Palmetto Synthetics actively supports community programs.

The company is a unique key account for Santee Electric Cooperative. When the company was looking to establish its new facility in 1997 in Kingstree, it had the opportunity to choose among various electric utility providers. Ultimately, Palmetto Synthetics selected Santee Electric Cooperative as its power provider. This decision began a strong partnership between Santee Electric Cooperative and Palmetto Synthetics.

“When we were starting, and they told us we had a choice to make for our power provider, we said there is no choice other than Santee Electric Cooperative,” says Poston. “And we are so happy with that decision we made all those years ago.”

“The quality of service and reliability that Santee Electric Cooperative provides is unmatched,” says Poston. “We are really pleased with our relationship with Santee Electric Cooperative.”

Looking ahead, Palmetto Synthetics remains committed to innovation, sustainability and community—ensuring its impact continues to grow both locally and globally.



Alana White, Palmetto Synthetics employee, ensures smooth operations at Palmetto Synthetics, maintaining efficiency and quality on the production line.



PHOTOS BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Freshly processed synthetic fibers make their way into bins, ready for the next stage of production at Palmetto Synthetics.