

Tranter has new president; no big changes planned

Company to stay in Edgefield

By CHRISTOPHER COLE
Editor / Manager



Christopher Cole/Staff

Paul A. Cooper, the newly-named president of Tranter Radiator Products: "The ownership change is good for us."

Tranter Radiator Products plans to stay in Edgefield County under its new ownership, company officials said Monday.

Buckingham Capital Partners LP, which bought the factory off Augusta Road, also announced that Paul A. Cooper has been named president of the business unit.

Cooper had been running the site as vice president and general manager under the old ownership.

"He's been serving in the role as the general manager for the last year," said Tim Mistler, operating partner at Buckingham, "and he's been at Tranter Radiator Products since 2001."

Mistler added, "No other

changes are being announced."

The previous owners, Dover Diversified Inc., had a local executive over the plant along with Cooper.

"The two roles are being consolidated into one, which will be handled by Paul," Mistler said.

There is no reason to expect the factory, which employs about 115 people, to move out of Edgefield, he said.

Buckingham is "completely committed" to continuing operations at this site, Mistler said.

"We do have an experienced work force that had been doing this business for several decades," he said. "The reputation of the business is excellent throughout the industry. We're not going to challenge that good situation by making

dramatic changes."

Mistler did say the new owners would like to keep improving quality.

"There will be an effort to reinvigorate the activities, to continue to make process improvements, and to see what can be done to enhance quality and customer satisfaction," he said. "But these are rather normal initiatives that are very natural for a new start for a business under new ownership."

Cooper, who earned his MBA from Wilmington College in Delaware, said the sale to Buckingham makes sense.

The new owners have experience in the electric power industry to match Tranter's reputation, he said.

"The ownership change is good for us," he said. "This was by far the best fit."