

# Furniture carrier acquires trucking company

■ **Undetermined number of jobs will be lost.**

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## HICKORY

Sunbelt Furniture Xpress, a specialized furniture carrier based here, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire An-

derson Truck Line, a 77-year-old trucking company based in Lenoir.

Anderson Truck Line employs about 70 people. Some will be offered jobs with Sunbelt.

The deal will add four states (Florida, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware) and the District of Columbia to Sunbelt's service area, for a total direct

delivery area encompassing 25 states from the East Coast to Southern California.

The move will allow Sunbelt to provide direct service to 65 percent of the U.S. population from its service centers in Hickory, Dallas and Fontana, Calif.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Dan Anderson, head of Anderson Truck Line, will join

Sunbelt as director of business development.

"Our goal is to provide a seamless transition so that Anderson's customers can continue to enjoy a superior level of service with the knowledge that they will have a long-term, financially sound and dedicated provider in Sunbelt," said Stan Froneberger, Sunbelt vice president of sales

and marketing.

Froneberger said Sunbelt will hire as many Anderson employees as possible.

The deal is Sunbelt's second acquisition this year. In June, the company acquired Hudson-based Newton Transportation. About 50 jobs were lost as a result of that deal.

Sunbelt, formed in 1966, employs about 200 people.