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Alabama Links

Looking for a one-stop clearinghouse for Alabama economic development-related links? Try the "Additional Links" page on EDPA's website.

You'll find a categorized list of links to helpful websites - following is a list of categories currently on the page:

- @ Alabama State Government
- @ Construction
- @ Economic Development Entities in Alabama
- @ Economics Data
- @ Education and Training
- @ Environmental Permitting
- @ Geology
- @ Incubators
- @ Industry Database
- @ Industry Segments
- @ International
- @ Labor Information
- @ Map Library
- @ News in Alabama
- @ Private Sector Resources

- @ Quality of Life
- @ SICs and NAICs
- @ Taxes and Incentives
- @ Transportation
- @ Utilities

This should give a handy reference point for anyone searching for Alabama information. We encourage you to bookmark the site and check back often!

Also, after much hard work, the new buildings and sites database is in the final stages of revision! Stay tuned for the new version in a matter of weeks!

Do you have suggestions or comments about EDPA's new website or newsletter?

We'd like to hear from you! Please e-mail comments to info@edpa.org

www.edpa.org

Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

500 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, Alabama 35209
(205) 943-4700 telephone
(205) 943-4703 facsimile
www.edpa.org ~ info@edpa.org

BULK

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Toyota Breaks Ground in Huntsville

Toyota's first V-8 engine plant outside of Japan is officially in the making. The company recently broke ground at its 200-acre site for the \$220 million factory that will produce 120,000 engines annually for the Tundra pickup truck.

An independent report from Auburn University at Montgomery predicted that the Toyota plant would indirectly create 967 new jobs on top of the 350 the plant will employ directly. The report estimated that the total direct and indirect payroll effect of this project will amount to \$60 million annually.

Production is not scheduled until 2003, but already, Huntsville is reaping benefits. The automaker has said it is giving \$500,000 to enhance technology in three school systems.

"Toyota's way, when we come into a new location, we really do like to send the message that we're establishing roots here," said Barbara McDaniel, manager of external affairs for Toyota Motor

Manufacturing North America. "We do want to be part of the local community."

"We're building a strong and unshakable foundation on which Toyota and Alabama will build our future," said Gov. Don Siegelman during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Toyota, America's fourth largest automaker, employs more than 31,000 people in the United States and Canada. Toyota currently has three engine plants in North America. The company's direct North American investment is more than \$11.7 billion. Toyota's North American-produced vehicles include the Camry, Avalon, Sienna, Solara, Sequoia, Corolla, Tundra and Tacoma.

Boeing Adding Rocket Jobs

Decatur's Boeing plant is adding about 100 new employees after successful tests on the Delta IV rocket, which is assembled in Decatur.

"The current schedule looks like in the next three years we will be steadily increasing our launches. Hiring will be tied to that," said General Manager Mike Bunney.

"As far as what I can see from my view, we will have a steady hiring increase."

"The successful CBC static fire test is one of the biggest events in the development of the Delta IV program," said Dan

Barron, director of the Boeing Delta IV common booster core development.

"All of us here in Decatur are absolutely tickled to death," Bunney said of the testing. "It was our first product and a labor of love. We are really elated about the fact that it worked, and worked so well."

Boeing has announced four Delta IV launches in 2002 and eight in 2003. The plant, which currently employs 545, is capable of producing up to 40 assemblies annually at its full employment of 2,000.

Wood Products Plant Locates in Berry

Berry Wood Products, founded by Tuscaloosa residents, is locating in the town of Berry in Fayette County.

The \$2.5 million wood product manufacturing facility will operate from a former garment production site and will initially employ 25. It will produce hardwood flooring.

This is the first economic development announcement in Berry in 30 years.

Paris Packaging Opening in Andalusia

Paris Packaging, a folding carton manufacturer, is opening in a 100,000 square-foot facility in Andalusia. The initial investment will exceed \$2 million.

Paris will begin production in June with 35-40 employees and expects to double employment within three years.

Headquartered in Paris, Tex., Paris Packaging services accounts in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas for bakeries, fast food outlets, beverage companies, medical supplies manufacturers and the frozen food industry. They are capable of converting 40,000 tons of paperboard annually into products such as printed chicken boxes, windowed bakery boxes, nested trays and metal-edged cartons.

Laundry Company Opens Facility in Selma

South Central Alabama Laundry Service has opened a 50,000 square-foot laundry facility in the South Dallas Industrial Park in Selma. Initially, the company will process 3.5 million pounds of laundry for the Selma Baptist Hospital, but it is equipped to handle 11 million pounds of laundry daily. The company expects to gain the additional volume from other area hospitals and non-health care entities. The facility will employ 40 people initially.

Tuscaloosa Companies Plan Expansions

Several Tuscaloosa companies are planning expansions of their existing operations.

ARD Logistics-Alabama is creating 54 jobs with its \$2.7 million plant that will supply Johnson Controls, a supplier to Mercedes-Benz. Construction is scheduled to begin in September.

JVC America is planning a \$12.7 million expansion into DVD products. This expansion will add 50 jobs when completed in September 2002. Construction will begin in June.

Tuscaloosa News is planning a \$25 million plant, which will employ 20 additional people. Construction on this project is expected to begin in July.

Honda Training Center Officially Opens

The \$10 million Talladega County Industrial Development Center officially opened in late April. The 62,500 square-foot center will be used primarily to train Honda Manufacturing of Alabama employees.

"We are very excited to have this training center available to use," said Mikio Yoshimi, HMA president and CEO. "Automation or equipment can't guarantee quality, only people can."

The center includes an auditorium, small and large conference rooms, seven classrooms, office space, six laboratories and an open shop work simulation area. More than 180 courses are taught at the facility, ranking from mechanics and engineering, to leadership and diversity.

The first batch of Honda hires have already logged more than 20,000 hours of training in the facility since it opened in November. About 300 process associates and equipment service associates are now employed by Honda. Eventually, the plant will employ 1,500. Operations at the plant to produce trial vehicles are scheduled to begin this summer.

Want your news in developments?

Do you have news that you would like to have considered for inclusion in *Developments*? Send it via one of the three methods below to the attention of Wendy Wallace:

fax:

(205) 943-4703

e-mail:

wwallace@edpa.org

mail:

500 Beacon Parkway W.
Birmingham, AL 35209

College Begins Call Center Training

Jefferson State Community College will fill a growing need in the Birmingham metro area with its new Call Center & Customer Service Training and Development Center. The program will teach communication and phone etiquette skills as well as elementary Spanish to assist Hispanic callers. Students enrolled in the program will earn 12 credit hours that can be applied to an associate degree in business management.

Panalpina Receives NAITA Award

Panalpina received the 2001 Global Trade Award from the North Alabama International Trade Association. Switzerland-based Panalpina World Transport, a forwarding and logistics group, operates its North American hub in Huntsville.

Panalpina has celebrated two milestones this year: Its 10-year anniversary in Huntsville, and a 100,000 square-foot expansion that more than doubled its space at the Huntsville International Airport.

Panalpina has 11 direct flights each week from Huntsville to Luxembourg, which connect to Scotland, Ireland, Mexico and South America.

The NAITA Global Trade Award honors existing businesses for their dedication in pursuing and penetrating global markets.

Angel Club Formed in Birmingham

A retired computer executive is in the final stages of formalizing Angel Capital Group LLC as Birmingham's first club for angel investors.

"Our principal objective is Alabama economic development," founder Lex Grainger told the *Birmingham News*. "Our second objective is to bring some kind of organization to the angel investing process, because right now a lot of new companies have no idea how to go find angels and how to get money from them."

The ACG's mission will be to provide funds to early-stage medical and infotech companies that meet Securities and Exchange Commission guidelines and have a high chance of success.

Angel investors are wealthy individuals who invest their personal money in start-up companies. These investors are usually more liberal in their lending criteria than institutional venture capitalists or banks and expect returns of five to 10 times their original investment.

Economic Development Staff Changes

A number of personnel changes in the economic development community are taking place:

Mike Harvey, president and CEO of the Marshall County Economic Development Council, has left to become vice president of marketing for

the East Tennessee Economic Development Agency. MCEDC Vice President Matt Arnold is interim president.

Larry Lee, president of the Covington County Economic Development Commission is taking a position as the Executive Director of the newly-formed West Central Partnership of Alabama, which covers Fayette, Lamar and Pickens Counties.

Troy Wayman, at the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, is leaving his post to recruit business for the Alabama region for JESCO construction.

Al Cook, senior vice president for corporate development at the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, is joining Florida's Great Northwest.

Brownfields Bill Signed

The Alabama Voluntary Cleanup Act (the Brownfields Bill) has been signed into law. The new law encourages the reuse and redevelopment of older industrial business sites by exempting new property owners from liability for past environmental damage. The state Department of Environmental Management will oversee the act's implementation.

Birmingham Tops Fortune List

Birmingham has more Fortune 500 companies per-capita than any other city in the nation and ranks second in the Southeast for its total number of Fortune 500 headquarter companies. Six Fortune 500 companies are based in Birmingham.