

Four leading companies join the Partnership

EDPA is honored to add four companies to its elite list of Partners.

Centex/Tiger is a joint venture between Centex Engineering and Construction and Tiger Construction.

Montgomery-based **Marshall Construction** is a 26 year-old full-service firm offering pre-construction, construction, design/build services and real estate services.

On the web:
www.marshallconstruction.com.

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, P.C. is one of the nation's largest labor and employment law firms, with lawyers in fourteen offices across the country, including Alabama. The firm represents more than half of the nation's Fortune 50 Companies. On the web:

www.ogletreedeakins.com.

Montgomery-based **Wilson, Price, Barranto, Blankenship and Billingsley** is one of the largest and oldest CPA firms in Alabama. Through its affiliated companies, it also provides information technology solutions as well as insurance and risk management services. On the web: www.wilsonprice.com.

Are you updating the Buildings and Sites Database?

Just a reminder to continue updating your buildings and sites on the EDPA webpage. We continue to get a lot of "hits" on the section of the website and need to keep it as up-to-date as possible. Thank you for helping us make this the best service possible for companies looking for a location in Alabama!



DEVELOPMENTS

June 2002

Alabama Research Alliance formed

An executive order signed by the governor established the Alabama Research Alliance, a partnership among Alabama's research universities, the business community and state government to foster economic development in Alabama by investing in existing and new research initiatives.

The research alliance will focus on investing in and promoting research in space; science; technology and defense; automotive manufacturing and production design; agriculture; biomedicine and cancer research; and aviation computer electronics.

The board will consist of 13 members, including the chancellor of the University of Alabama system, the presidents of Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, Alabama A&M and Tuskegee University; and seven business leaders, who will be appointed by the governor to serve six-year staggered terms. The governor will serve as chairman.

The alliance will be designated as a state agency to accept federal funds appropriated or allocated by Congress to the state for scientific research.

Kvaerner locates at former Navy home port

Kvaerner Oilfield Products will locate a \$15 million plant at the former Navy home port on Mobile Bay.

Construction on the project will begin this month for a slated opening date of April 2003.

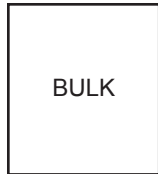
The facility, which will be the assembly point for steel tube umbilicals, will employ 50. The umbilicals will carry hydraulic fluids and communications lines from oil and gas platforms to undersea equipment.

The home port site, Mobile Middle Bay Port, was a U.S. Navy base used for ship repairs and as a rest point.

Kvaerner Oilfield Products is a division of Norway-based Aker Kvaerner AS. The Kvaerner Group has 42,000 workers in 30 countries and expects to reach revenues of \$6 billion this year.

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



Tool and die manufacturer locates in Auburn

Auburn Technologies will locate its \$3.1 million tool and die/mold and pattern manufacturing plant in the Auburn Technology Park North. The company will employ 50 at the site.

The City of Auburn, the Auburn Industrial Development Board, EDPA and the Alabama Development Office helped to locate the facility.

Alex City opens industrial park, announces new industry

The Lake Martin Regional Industrial Park celebrated its grand opening recently. Coosa County, Alexander City and the Lake Martin Area Industrial Development Authority partnered for the financing and development of the park. American Technology, a manufacturer of electronic harnesses for buses and medical equipment, is the park's first tenant. AmTech will begin construction on its 60,000 square-foot building soon.

Menasha Packaging locates in Athens

Menasha Packaging Corp. will build a new manufacturing plant in Athens that will employ up to 100. The 150,000 square-foot plant will be the company's second in Alabama, and its fourth in the Southeast. It will produce corrugated cardboard sheets. Alabama Industrial Development Training will administer pre-employment training.

Subscribe to e-Developments...e-mail wwallace@edpa.org, subject: "subscribe e-developments"
You will receive an e-mailed version of the newsletter each month.

Lufkin announces in Cullman

100 year-old Texas-based Lufkin Industries Inc. will locate a \$2.5 million gear repair manufacturing facility in Cullman Industrial Park #2. The 20,000 square-foot facility will serve Lufkin's Power Transmission division. The facility will be devoted to after-market repair, rebuild, and overhaul for industrial and marine gears.

Service Zone begins hiring in Andalusia

Service Zone has begun hiring at its recently constructed Andalusia facility. The inbound call center, Service Zone's third in the state, will employ 600 at full employment. Interested parties should fax their resume to: Attn: Andalusia Jobs, (801) 729-0453 or email:

andalusiajobs@servicezone.com. Job descriptions are available at www.servicezone.com/company/careers/careers.html

Tuscaloosa-Northport named "All-America City"

The Tuscaloosa-Northport region was one of 10 cities nationwide to receive the All-America City Award from the National Civic League. The award recognizes cities for developing local solutions to national problems. Tuscaloosa-Northport spotlighted the Police Athletic League; RISE, a program for children with disabilities; and the Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center.

Manufacturing and Technology Alliance formed

The Business Council of Alabama has formed a new public policy group to support the growth and development of manufacturing and technology companies in the state. The BCA Manufacturing and Technology Alliance is comprised of representatives from public and private entities representing a cross-section of Alabama's industrial and technological communities. According to the BCA, the alliance will establish a legislative agenda to enhance Alabama's ability to attract new industry; support and stabilize existing industry; further diversify Alabama's manufacturing base; improve access to financial resources; reduce unnecessary costs and burdensome regulations; and address other issues. The agenda will be presented in early 2003.

Henry County EDA formed

The Henry County area now has its own Economic Development Authority. Bill Parker is the acting Director of the Authority, Mary Lynn Fraser is the assistant director and Winston Griggs is currently serving as chairman. The HCEDA office is located at the Henry County Courthouse Annex, 2nd floor, Abbeville, Alabama. Inquiries can be sent to HCEDA, 9 Park Street, Headland, Alabama 36345 or e-mailed to HCEDA@maxxconnect.net. The office phone number is 334.585.0661 and the fax number is 334.585.0662.

Gadsden-Etowah plans to spur development

The Gadsden-Etowah County area recently launched Horizons 2012 to help launch the growth of the local economy. Created by the Gadsden-Etowah County Industrial Development Authority and the Chamber, the plan focuses on marketing, recruitment and workforce development. Fundraising to implement the plan and provide incentives for industry is currently underway.

Birmingham venture fund in top 100

Paradigm Venture Partners appeared in *Entrepreneur* magazine's Top 100 Venture Capital Firms for Entrepreneurs. The fund is managed by Redmont Venture Partners Inc. Redmont Venture Partners is a ? of Emerging Technology Partners, an EDPA subsidiary that provides venture management support to technology companies with high growth potential.

Venture Tax Break Signed

Alabama created Certified Capital Company legislation with a bill signed into law in late April. The bill increases the amount of venture capital available by allowing insurance companies to pay into a CAPCO fund instead of paying a premium tax. CAPCO dollars will go to companies with fewer than 100 employees - 80 percent of who are employed in Alabama. The Alabama Development Office will begin accepting applications from certified CAPCO companies Oct. 1, although companies cannot begin taking the dollar-for-dollar tax credits it authorizes until 2004. The Alabama Development Office will hold a public hearing July 10 to discuss rules for this initiative. The hearing will be at 1 p.m. in the seventh floor auditorium of the RSA Center for Commerce on Adams Avenue.

People

Rachel Madore, at the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, was promoted to director of Information & Research.

Clay Shannon has joined the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority as project manager. Shannon comes to TCIDA from the Alabama Sports Foundation in Birmingham.

Wayne Vardaman is the new executive director of the Selma and Dallas County Economic Development Authority. Vardaman most recently served as senior vice president of operations at American Candy Company.

Timothy Wang is director of recruitment at the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. Wang was previously a project manager for EDPA.

Education

Alabama wins top educational award

The Alabama Department of Education's Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) recently garnered the State Innovation Award from the Education Commission of the States. The ECS presents the annual award to a state that exhibits excellence in a policy area relating to the current ECS Chairman's Initiative.

Currently, there are 424 ARI Literacy Demonstration Sites across the state. The goal of the initiative is to improve reading instruction and achieve 100 percent grade-level literacy in the public schools.

Events

Alabama Transportation Marketplace

The Alabama Transportation Marketplace will be held Wednesday, July 17 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. This free marketplace will focus on educating small business owners on growth opportunities with Federal, state and local government entities.

Prime contractors will present information on available business opportunities in the private sector. The U.S. Department of Transportation will host workshops on:

- DOT bonding and lending programs
- Contracting with GSA
- Marketing to Federal Agencies
- Government Certification

To register for the event, visit the website at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov>. For more information call Juana Silverio, DOT at 800-532-1169 ext. 69886. The event is sponsored by the U.S. DOT Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

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

Do you have economic development-related staff changes or job openings?

*Get the word out!
Please e-mail the position information to info@edpa.org*