

On the Web:

Re-Vamped Alabama Buildings and Sites Database Debuts!

Tired of muddling through site searches that take forever? The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama's new Sites & Buildings database, the only comprehensive site database for the state, is up and running.

Our new system is fast, reliable and current. Users can conduct searches for sites, buildings, or communities, all with detailed forms that allow searches to be as narrow or as broad as needed. There is a new graphic search mode also, that allows users to search using an Alabama map.

We offer full-size property photographs accompanied by detailed spec sheets specially formatted for readability and for printing. Searches are integrated, linking available sites and buildings to their communities, and accompanying data and websites. The site features "common sense" navigation, taking the guesswork out of searches.

For Alabama communities, editing and uploading is easier and faster. Edits are performed within a single screen. There are now downloadable reports that communities can use and customize for their own use.

Try it out for yourself. Visit our website and at www.edpa.org, then click on "Available Properties" or "Community Profiles." Then, let us know what you think: info@edpa.org.

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

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BULK

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Auburn Drives Home Two German Auto Plants

Lightning struck twice for Auburn, with the announcement of two German auto suppliers that will invest \$30 million and create as many as 400 jobs.

The new projects were announced during a ceremony at the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart, Germany. Gov. Don Siegelman and other officials were in Stuttgart for the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce's Automotive Symposium following a trip to the Paris Air Show.

Stahlschmidt & Maiworm will invest \$28 million for its aluminum wheel manufacturing plant at Auburn Technology Park North. The company will employ 350.

Hoerbiger Hydraulik will invest \$2 million to locate adjacent to Hoerbiger Drivotech in Auburn Technology Park South. The company will manufacture hydraulic actuating mechanisms for the BMW Z3

roadster convertible tops. It will initially employ 15, with that number possibly increasing to 50.

Alabama a Top State for Automotive Growth

A recent report in *Business Facilities* ranks Alabama among its "Top States for Automotive Growth," which appeared in the June 2001 issue of the magazine.

Alabama ranked 8th among the top states. The rankings were based on the U.S. Department of Labor's job growth data, as well as growth in the number of establishments from 1995 to 1999 for Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 371.

"These companies have tended to move to the Southeast, and I clearly see movement in that direction," Editor of *Automotive News* Ed Lapham said. "Alabama is very, very hot with Mercedes, Honda, and there will be others."

Southern Monopole Locates in Steele

On the heels of the Saks distribution center grand opening, Steele found another reason to celebrate as Southern Monopole and Utilities Company announced it will bring 100 jobs early next year, with employment eventually reaching 250. The company will locate in the St. Clair County/Steele Industrial Park.

The plant will produce steel poles for use by utility companies for cell towers and replacement of

wooden utility poles. Production will begin with 30 poles daily, with that number growing to meet demand.

Southern Monopole is owned by Qualico Steel Company Inc. of Webb, Ala.

Pemco Lands Boeing Deal

A contract from Boeing Co. to refurbish the Air Force's KC-135 aircraft will give job stability to 1,400 Pemco Aeroplex employees at its Birmingham airport facility.

"This agreement is the future of our company," said Ron Aramini, CEO of Pemco Aviation Group. "And it represents the 1,400 jobs that we want to become 2,000 jobs in a couple of years."

"This is the largest maintenance facility of its kind in the United States, but what we have here is not only the facility, but also the skilled labor," said Gov. Don Siegelman at a press conference announcing the contract.

Ameron Opens in Anniston

Gov. Don Siegelman and local officials recently celebrated ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Ameron's new pole manufacturing plant in Anniston. The \$8.5 million facility will produce concrete and steel lighting and traffic poles. The plant created 40 jobs initially, which will grow to 80 when a second shift is added. The 120,000 square-foot facility was built on 21 acres on Electronics Drive. The Anniston plant is California-based Ameron's fifth and its first east of the Mississippi.

JVC Adds DVD Production, Jobs

JVC will invest \$12.5 million to expand production at the Tuscaloosa plant to include DVDs as well as the videotapes and compact discs already produced at the site. Approximately 50 new positions will be added to the workforce of approximately 600.

"We have 15 years of experience, so transitioning to DVDs will not be that difficult," JVC's Dave Rodgers told *The Tuscaloosa News*.

Homan Forest Products expands in Muscle Shoals

Homan Forest Products recently announced an expansion at its Muscle Shoals facility that represents an investment of more than \$500,000 and the addition of 12 jobs.

The expansion is a direct result of

the labor force in the areas, said President and CEO of Homan Industries Larry Homan.

Huntsville a High-Tech Market to Watch

Huntsville is one of the top five "Hot High-Tech Markets to Watch," according to an article in the July 2001 issue of *Site Selection*.

Factors contributing to this designation include: Cummings Research Park, the second-largest research park in the country; pre-certified sites for semiconductor operations; and a large high-tech workforce.

Technology Magazine Plans August Launch

The premier issue of *Alabama Technology Today* magazine, the first statewide publication devoted exclusively to high technology will launch the first week in August.

The magazine has been publishing as *Huntsville Technology Today* since its inception in Jan. 2000, but has already found a demand to publish statewide.

"Huntsville has the largest concentration of technology companies in the state and there are enough stories to print for years," said Editor-in-Chief Wesley Thomas.

"However, we feel like there are many more stories all over the state and we

want to help bring those stories to light."

Thomas pointed to the significant presence of biotechnology, medical technology and information technology companies in all the major markets around the state, as well as the high caliber of research being conducted throughout the university system in Alabama.

The premier issue will look into important issues for state technology companies, discuss organizations such as the Alabama Information Technology Association, the Biotechnology Association of Alabama, the state's business incubator network, venture capital clubs and small business funding options from the government.

For more information, visit www.alatechtoday.com.

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:

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Huntsville Among "The Best Places to Live and Work"

The May 2001 issue of *Expansion Management* lists Huntsville among its Five Star Communities - one of the top in the nation to live and work.

The goal of the study, the magazine states, is to "provide small- to mid-sized company executives with a basis for comparing the type of living and working environment they are likely to encounter."

The study considered 50 different quality of life indicators such as the ability of families to meet their financial needs and desires; workforce availability; adult educational levels; available colleges, universities and community colleges; and transportation infrastructure.

Dedes Earns CED

Congratulations to James Dedes, executive director of the Shelby County Economic Development and Industrial Development Authority for recently earning the designation of Certified Economic Developer. Dedes has worked in his current role since August 1996. He was previously with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in Anniston. The CED designation recognizes the professional economic developer and sets the standard for excellence within the profession of economic development. It is issued through the International Economic Development Council.

Economic Development Staff Changes

George Harris, a partner with Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP, has been named chairperson of the firm's State Governmental Affairs and Economic Development Practice Group and has relocated to the firm's Montgomery office.

Joe Mathis, executive director of the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce, recently announced his retirement. Connie Bainbridge, economic development coordinator at the chamber office, will serve as interim executive director.

Teachers Learn from Business

Fifty-eight Montgomery educators and counselors spent a week this summer in various industries as part of the Chamber's School-to-Career program.

"We train kids to go to college, but what about those who will go straight into the work force?" says Plummie Ware, one of the educators participating in the program.

In two years, the Montgomery School-to-Career partnership has grown to include 100 business partners and has serviced more than 1,600 students.

"Education has always been and will continue to be a top priority for the chamber," said Randy George, the Montgomery Area Chamber president. The chamber works closely with its School-to-Career partners to set up tours of various Montgomery businesses so students, teachers and counselors

have an awareness of the different industries and careers in the area.

ACHE to Form K-16 Council

The Alabama Coalition on Higher Education is attempting to facilitate a K-16 Council composed of education, business, government and civic leaders to begin a systemic approach to the development of Alabama.

"K-12 and higher education are completely interdependent," says William Blow, interim executive director of ACHE. "The two sectors must find ways to cooperate in educating our citizens."

For more information on the formation of the council, call ACHE: (334) 242-2204.

UAB Programs Ranked

Eight health care programs at the University of Alabama-Birmingham appear in the top 50 of the *U.S. News and World Report* annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue.

The university's rheumatology program ranked 8th on the list; the cardiology and cardiac surgery program was 13th; the nephrology program was 20th; and the cancer and gynecology programs were 26th. UAB's orthopedics program was 24th; the hormonal disorders program rose from 49th to 27th; and the pulmonology program was 42nd.