

Spring Makeovers:

EDPA features improved website, newsletter

Look who's got a new look for spring! EDPA has revamped its website and its newsletter to serve you better.

Visit www.edpa.org to see the new changes on EDPA's website. You'll find a dynamic site that is more appealing, more informational and easier to navigate than before.

Among the changes you'll see are:

- Ⓞ New links to all EDPA Partners
- Ⓞ An expanded links section, now categorized and easier to navigate.
- Ⓞ Useful maps
- Ⓞ Lots of downloadable documents with the information you need for site proposals and background information.
- Ⓞ A "News & Publications" section, where limited back issues of *Developments* and *Partners* will be available online.

Coming soon: A completely redesigned buildings and sites database! You've asked for it, and we're answering the

call...The new database, scheduled for release this summer, will be completely redesigned, easier to use, and most importantly, will have less "down time."

Developments newsletter, as you can see, has also undergone a thorough makeover. The newsletter will now be published monthly and will be released around the middle of each month. Issues will still be e-mailed and available online at www.edpa.org, under the "News & Publications" link.

Please use the contact information provided on page two of this month's issue if you have news that you would like to have considered for inclusion in *Developments*.

We hope you find these new changes useful. Please continue to let us know how we can serve you better.

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

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.

Service Zone announces three call centers in state

Service Zone, a technical support and customer care services call center provider, announced it is locating three call centers in Alabama, bringing over 1,800 jobs to the state.

On March 7, Service Zone announced that it is locating new technology support and customer care facilities in both Hamilton and Winfield, with each facility employing 600.

Two 44,000 square-foot call centers will be constructed, one in the Bedford Industrial Park in Hamilton and another in the Winfield Industrial Park in Winfield. Each center will initially occupy approximately 11 acres of each 20-acre site, allowing enough room to double in size.

The Andalusia facility, announced on March 9, will be constructed adjacent to the Andalusia/Opp Airport on U.S. Highway 84. It will also be a 44,000 square-foot center employing 600.

The majority of new jobs created for all three facilities will be for technical support representatives who handle inbound telephone inquiries and manage customer relationships for Service Zone clients.

Recruiting is expected to begin in a few weeks. Interested parties should use the following contact information to send resumes:

Andalusia:

Fax: attn: Andalusia jobs (810) 729-0453
E-mail: Andalusiajobs@servicezone.com

Hamilton and Winfield:

Fax: attn: Hamilton and Winfield Jobs (810) 816-1723
E-mail: Careers@servicezone.com

Candidates can also view job descriptions and apply online at:

www.servicezone.com/company/careers/careers.html

Auto Supplier Expanding in Clanton

Auto supplier CRH North America, a subsidiary of Germany-based C. Rob Hammerstein & Co., announced it will invest \$21 million at its Clanton facility and add 275 employees to its current work force of 70. Construction on the 125,000 square-foot expansion will begin this spring.

CRH develops and manufactures seat frames, steering column adjusters and interior systems for automotive manufacturers such as Mercedes, Volkswagen, Audi

and BMW.

"We have a great relationship with Alabama and our hard-working employees in Chilton County," said President Robert Houston.

"CRH is certainly excited to be expanding its facilities and looks forward to strengthening its relationship with the city of Clanton and the state of Alabama."

CRH originally chose Alabama as the site of its new facility in 1999.

Honda Supplier Locates in Talladega County

Precision Strip Inc., announced

March 14 that it will invest \$12 million in a 110,000 square-foot facility to process steel and aluminum coils for automotive and appliance use.

Ohio-based Precision Strip, a longtime Honda supplier, will also supply the Talladega County Honda plant, along with other facilities.

"This is our eighth plant, so I've done this a few times," President Tom Compton said, "but I have never been welcomed anywhere so enthusiastically, and been helped out so professionally."

Panalpina Expands, Celebrates Anniversary

Switzerland-based Panalpina World Transport, Huntsville's international cargo carrier, recently celebrated two milestones: The company's 10-year anniversary in Huntsville, and its expansion.

Huntsville is the company's main hub for trans-Atlantic traffic into Europe. Eleven direct flights carry cargo to Luxembourg each week.

The expansion, a 100,000 square-foot facility, more than doubles Panalpina's space at the Huntsville International Airport.

Pharmaceutical R&D Moving to Birmingham

Galencia Pharmaceuticals is relocating its headquarters and research laboratories to Birmingham from Maryland. The company will occupy a 20,000 square-foot facility at Oxmoor Research Park. Construction of the specialized laboratory should be completed by Fall 2001.

The company will employ 25 initially, the majority of which will work in scientific research.

Galencia is working to develop therapeutic vaccines to treat cancer and infectious diseases.

Fiat Subsidiary Dedicates New Plant

Hundreds of people attended the recent dedication for the new Teksid Aluminum Components plant in Sylacauga.

Teksid's initial investment in the plant is \$70 million. The plant will produce more than 300,000 sets of aluminum engine heads and blocks annually for General Motors' Saturn Division.

Teksid recently announced that it will build a second plant that will also be located in Talladega County.

Thousands Apply with Distribution Center

Officials at the Target regional distribution center in Huntsville expected 6,000 to 7,000 people to attend its three-day job fair. In its first day, the fair attracted over 8,000 people, more than enough to fill the 675 available positions.

The fair, which was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., was moved up to 12:30 p.m., after officials saw the line curving around the 1.3 million square-foot facility. The Huntsville Police Department estimated officers directed approximately 10,000 vehicles in the traffic surrounding the center, some from as far away as Birmingham and Tennessee.

Alabama by the Numbers

With 2.3 billion dollars invested per one million people, Alabama secured the number six spot for capital investment in 1998-2000.

Alabama earned the number nine spot for new manufacturing plants, with 57 locating in the state for the year 2000.

Four Alabama locations ranked in the top 100 for "Top 100 U.S. Small Towns for Corporate Facilities." Selma ranked 32; Cullman, 37; and Opelika and Scottsboro tied for 57.

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

French Delegation Visits State

Executives of French automotive companies visited the state on a two-day tour following the Society of Automotive Engineer's World Congress in Detroit. The 30-person delegation, representing automotive suppliers and component manufacturers, learned about opportunities in Alabama's rapidly emerging automotive industry.

While in Alabama, the delegation visited the Mercedes-Benz plant in Tuscaloosa County, attended a lunch sponsored by the Tuscaloosa Industrial Development Authority and visited a first-tier supplier. The Alabama-France Economic Alliance and the Alabama Automotive Corridor Alliance also sponsored a dinner in the guests' honor.

The visit is the first by a group of French automotive companies to Alabama. The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and the Alabama-France Economic Alliance organized the group's visit to the state.

The Alabama-France Economic Alliance was created last year by EDPA to promote opportunities between Alabama and France. For information on joining AFEA, e-mail Michael Johnson at mjohnson@edpa.org.

Alabama Roads Rank Third in the U.S.

The Road Information Program, a highway transportation nonprofit research group, ranked Alabama's road conditions third best in the nation.

The survey, based on 1999 data, ranked states based on what motorists pay in extra vehicle operating costs due to poor roads.

According to the study, only 6

percent of Alabama highways were in mediocre condition and zero ranked in poor condition.

Alabama Companies Make Forbes 500

Eight Alabama companies made the Forbes 500 list of the nation's top-performing public companies. Following is a list of the Alabama companies, and their ranking on the list:

- 204; SouthTrust Corp.
- 209; Regions Financial Corp.
- 236; AmSouth Bancorp
- 328; Torchmark Corp.
- 337; HealthSouth Corp.
- 370; Compass Bancshares
- 404; SCI Systems Inc.
- 476; Protective Life Corp.

Twelve Alabama companies made the magazine's individual Top 500 lists for sales, profits, assets and market value.

Jefferson State Unveils Manufacturing Center

Jefferson State Community College recently unveiled its new Manufacturing Center in partnership with the Alabama Technology Network and community businesses and industries.

"This is more than just the old concept of a vocational school," said Director of the Manufacturing Center Andy Hatley. "There is a conception that these are blue collar workers, but with the technology of today, it is

much more."

The center will initially offer course in industrial maintenance, automation, computer aided drafting and drawing, machining and telecommunications.

UAB, UA Schools Rank in Top 50

The University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Medicine and the University of Alabama's Law School ranked in the top 50 graduate schools in the nation, according to the latest rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*.

UAB's medical research program ranked 27th and its primary care program, 41st. Four of the school's medical specialties were also ranked: AIDS, fourth; internal medicine, 13th; women's health, 15th; and pediatrics, 19th.

The Law School at the University of Alabama ranked 46th in the nation, making this the third year for the school to be ranked in the study.

State Imports Increase

Alabama's exports increased 15.5 percent last year, fueled primarily by increases to shipments to Austria and Mexico. The increases to Austria are due to Mercedes M-Class production in Graz and the increases to Mexico are due to textile shipments such as yarn and fabrics. Canada was the number one destination for Alabama products overall.