

# Advances

## AIDT named best work force training program in the U.S.

Alabama Industrial Development Training is the crown jewel of the nation's work force training programs, according to an annual survey of 70 industrial site selection consultants. A return contender among the top 10 U.S. work force training programs since Expansion Management magazine first published the poll in 1997, AIDT jumped five spots this year to reign as number one among all 50 states.

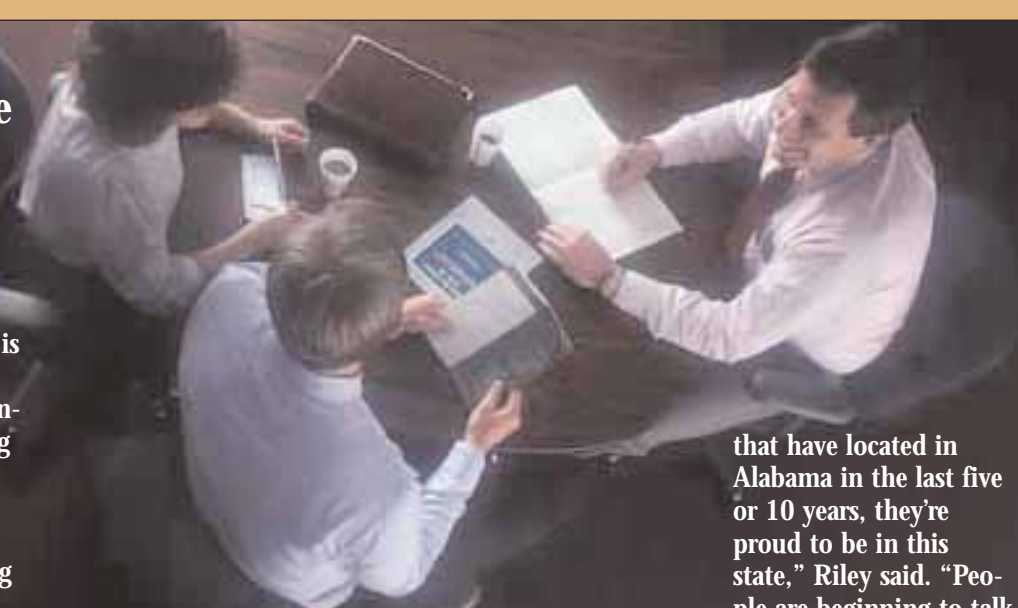
As an arm of the state's two-year college

system, AIDT offers comprehensive recruiting and customized training to new and expanding industries that are committed to job creation in Alabama. Since its inception in 1971, AIDT has provided training to more than 200,000 Alabamians

employed by more than 3,500 organizations.

In addition to the Alabama work force training program's outstanding reputation, Gov. Bob Riley credits the state's appeal to the work ethic widely held by its people. "If you look at the plants

that have located in Alabama in the last five or 10 years, they're proud to be in this state," Riley said. "People are beginning to talk about that Alabama work ethic. Mercedes came here and doubled its size. Honda came here and is doubling its size. They realize there is something unique here — the work ethic of the people in this state." ■



## 2005 Economic Outlook Conference — save the date and a space!

The University of Alabama's Center for Business and Economic Research will hold its annual Economic Outlook Conference January 13, 2005 in Mont-

gomery, Ala. Space is limited so early reservations are encouraged. For more information call 205-348-6191 or send an email to [uacber@cba.ua.edu](mailto:uacber@cba.ua.edu) ■

## Johnson Controls moves into Montgomery

Johnson Controls has leased a 120,000-square-foot facility in Montgomery to build and supply Hyundai's \$1 billion Montgomery plant with automotive interior components. At full production the company plans to employ approximately 70 workers. Production is set to begin in March 2005. ■

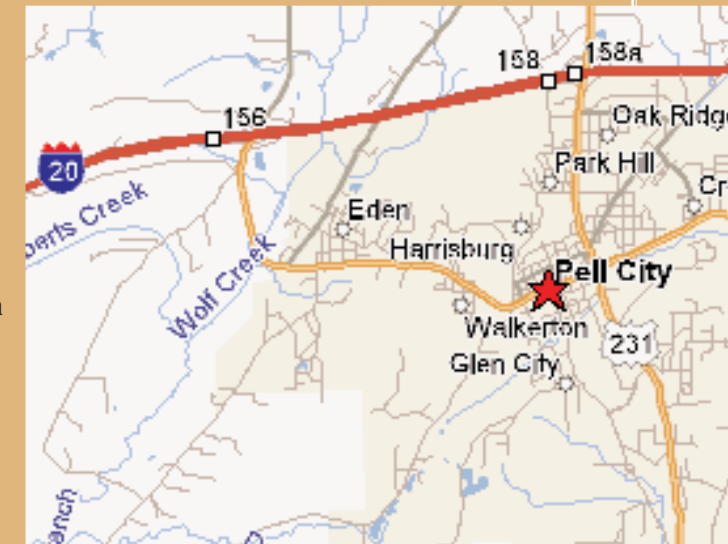


## Eissmann GmbH chooses Pell City, Ala., as home to its first U.S. plant

Germany-based automotive supplier Eissmann GmbH recently announced plans to build its first U.S. facility in Pell City, which will create 65 to 85 jobs. With an initial investment of \$2.5 million, Eissmann will manufacture leather components for Delphi and Mercedes at the 39,000-square-foot plant, which is expected to open in October 2005.

Founded in 1964, Eissmann employs 2,000 workers in seven manufacturing facilities located in Europe, China and South Africa.

"This is a great honor and pleasure to announce our new facility in Pell City, Ala.," said Juergen Eissmann, managing director. "This is an important step for Eissmann to open its first facility in America." ■



## ADO partners with Troy University to open economic development office overseas

The State of Alabama joined forces with Troy University to establish the Alabama Development Office European headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. The office, formerly located in Stuttgart, now has a home on the Troy-Heidelberg campus. Together, the collaboration will offer advanced learning and progressive business opportunities as part of a Germany-Alabama alliance. A valuable tool in forging relationships with potential foreign prospects, the European office will also help Alabama's existing industries interested in exporting to the area. ■



## Alabama wins "2004 State of the Year" accolades

The State of Alabama remains the South's top dog in terms of new development and job growth. For the second consecutive year, Alabama leads the pack as Southern Business and Development magazine's "2004

State of the Year." Recognized for the addition of 19,000 jobs with 500 companies since January 2003, Alabama's growth is attributed to both new plant locations as well as existing industry expansions. ■



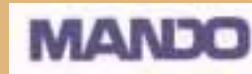
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**Mando America's President, Gi-On Jeon**

## South Korean-based Mando Corp. doubling work force and relocating U.S. headquarters

Alabama's top-notch work force and business-friendly environment made quite an impression on Mando Corp. With construction recently completed on the company's first U.S. manufacturing facility in Opelika, Mando announced plans to invest an additional \$35 million in the plant, double the size of its Alabama work force, and relocate its Detroit headquarters to the South. Mando



America Corp. plans to expand its existing 150,000-square-foot, \$30 million facility by another 175,000 square feet, bringing the total size of the plant to 325,000 square feet.

The company will produce brake corner modules, suspension modules and steering systems for its North American customers, including Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama. ■

## Supplier lands its first U.S. office

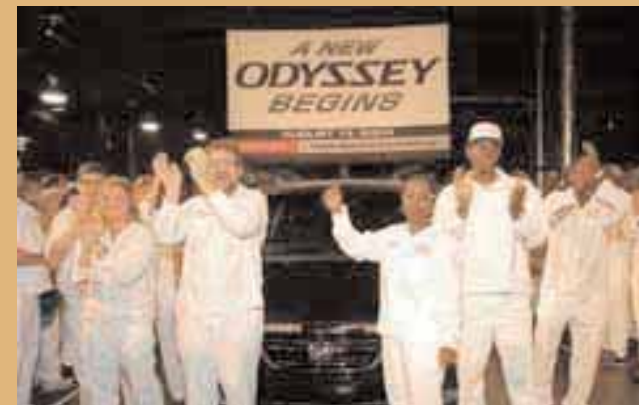
Fleetwood Metal Industries Inc. is investing more than \$9 million and creating 100 jobs to open its first U.S. operation in Sylacauga. Fleetwood is buying the city's second speculative building, currently 60,000 square feet with a 40,000-square-foot pad for future expansion. The Ontario-based company will produce metal stampings and spot-weld assemblies for Honda. ■

## State Farm's expansion brings new jobs

State Farm will expand its Birmingham office by 400 to 500 employees over the next two years in a move to consolidate much of its customer-service operations, monthly billing and claims process. The consolidation is designed to help Alabama's largest insurer better serve its customers. The Birmingham office currently employs 800. ■

## Meadowcraft's expansion means 200 jobs for Dallas County

Outdoor furniture maker Meadowcraft Inc. is expanding its current Dallas County facility with the creation of 125 new jobs, in addition to 75 jobs the company has added within the last six months. The company also signed a two-year lease on a 150,000-square-foot building in Selma, which will serve as Meadowcraft's warehouse. ■



## First 2005 Odyssey Minivan Produced in Lincoln

Associates at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama reached a production milestone in August with the roll out of the first all-new 2005 Odyssey minivan and V-6 engine at HMA. Honda is still keeping tight wraps on the new Odyssey, which is set to arrive at Honda dealers nationwide in mid-September.

Accompanied by strains of the song "Sweet Home Alabama," the minivan rolled off Honda's Line 1 at the Lincoln, Ala., plant to the cheers of more than 1,200 Honda associates.

The brief in-house celebration marked the start of mass production of the Odyssey. HMA is now the exclusive global production source for the Odyssey. ■

## Renosol Corp. to open Selma plant

With an initial \$9 million investment, second tier Hyundai supplier Renosol Corp. has purchased a 50,000-square-foot speculative building and 12.5 acres at Craig Field Industrial Park in Selma. Creating a full-production work force of 120 employees by 2007, the company will manufacture foam shapes for automobile seat backs, cushions, armrests and headrests. Renosol will then ship the foam shapes to first tier supplier Lear Corp. for final production into finished car seats. ■