



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF ALABAMA

The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama is a totally private, non-profit organization supported by 70 of Alabama's leading companies and institutions that are committed to quality growth. EDPA's mission is to provide private sector leadership for economic development in Alabama.

The Partnership was created in 1990 by a group of Alabama business leaders who shared a vision for a more dynamic economy in the state and a commitment to support the state's economic development efforts. Since its inception, EDPA has worked to accomplish several core objectives, which include: Raising Alabama's profile as an outstanding business location, attracting new industry, encouraging expansion of existing industry, growing jobs within the state and creating a better climate for growth.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF ALABAMA

500 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, AL 35209
800-252-5453
205-943-4700
205-943-4703 (fax)
www.edpa.org
partners@edpa.org

Editor STEVE SEWELL
Managing Editor RAY MARTIN
Associate Editor WENDY JOHNSON
Editorial Assistant RACHEL ROGERS



Partners is produced in conjunction with Martin Communications
641 Camden Ridge
Birmingham, AL 35226
205-942-3258
remartin@bellsouth.net

VantagePoint

Sizzling Summer

If there has ever been a time in Alabama's history when it was this hot, no one can remember it.

Literally, figuratively, however you want to look at it, the state is sizzling. The thermometer will likely reach triple digits on this August day. And if we had an instrument to measure the state's economy, it would undoubtedly show a similar reading.

Our cover for this issue, while referring specifically to Nucor Steel's growing operation in Decatur, is symbolic of what the entire state is experiencing.

Existing industries throughout Alabama are expanding and hiring workers. Several new companies to the state are nearing completion of their facilities and preparing for start-up. And prospective companies both large and not-so-large have Alabama under serious consideration for important projects.

Economic development activity and the state's overall economy have been strong in recent years, but suddenly we find that Alabama has caught an enormous wave that is moving the state fast forward.

In the summer of 1996, when EDPA published the first issue of *Partners*, we wouldn't have dared predict this kind of economic success for Alabama. We were hopeful that the state was at the threshold of a new and prosperous era in economic development, but Alabama was still trying to earn a reputation as a preferred business location for leading companies.

A lot has changed in 10 years. That inaugural issue of *Partners*



Ten years ago

featured a cover story on Mercedes-Benz, which had yet to complete its plant or produce its first vehicle.

Today, Mercedes is not only a resounding success, but so are Boeing, Honda, Toyota, Nucor, Lockheed Martin, Hyundai, EADS and numerous other companies that have come to the state during that time.

All located in Alabama to accomplish ambitious goals and in each case the state met the challenge of providing the work force, infrastructure and business environment they needed. Their positive Alabama experience has opened the door for unprecedented opportunity for the state.

When we started the magazine in 1996, we had a simple objective: Tell Alabama's greatest success stories. We wondered what we would do in a few years, after we had covered all of the stories. We didn't count on the stream of new companies that would locate in the state, or the many unheralded successes that we had yet to discover.

Ten years later, and we're still trying to get to all of the stories. ■

Steve Sewell
Editor