

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Companies

Lauderdale County

Custom Synthetic Fibers announced the company will open a new facility in an existing speculative building in Rogersville with the option to purchase. The company is already involved in expanding the plant to 80,000 s/f. The expansion is expected to be completed in 2016. Custom Synthetic Fibers will invest over \$6 million for the initial project, and a second phase will soon follow. The company will employ 50 people initially and increase to 80 within a five-year period. Once in operation, the company will be involved with recycling polymer (plastic) waste into recycled fibers and will be using all types of plastic bottles. The products produced by Custom Synthetic Fibers will be used in a variety of industries such as furniture, non-woven, and in the automotive fields.

Jackson County

Southern Concrete Products, Inc., a ready mix concrete supplier, opened their new plant in Stevenson. The company will have seven trucks and employ up to 15 people.

Expanding Companies

Limestone County

Carpenter Technology Corporation announced the company is investing \$23 million to add titanium furnace equipment to its new 100,000 s/f superalloy powder facility. The new plant's titanium powder product offering will increase Carpenter's reach into aerospace and medical markets and offer growth opportunities in transportation. Carpenter's first Limestone County plant, a \$518 million superalloy metal plant began production in early 2014.

Jackson County

Johns Manville (JM) announced the company will build a second production line at the Scottsboro manufacturing facility. JM manufactures TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin) for the roofing industry. The company located to Scottsboro in 2008 and expanded in March 2015. The new line will add 40 jobs and increase the plant's TPO production capacity.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



Headquarters: Birmingham, Alabama

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP is a regional law firm with a global perspective. The firm has more than 400 attorneys serving individuals, emerging businesses, and established regional, national and international companies. They are one of the largest firms in the Southeast, with offices strategically located in Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and the District of Columbia.

Contact: Chris Grissom or Alex Leath

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www.babc.com

This company has made a commitment to economic development in North Alabama and we hope that companies considering a location in North Alabama will look to our Corporate Partners for their project services.

The Valley Sustainable Communities Program



DeKalb County

Fort Payne has been designated as a Valley Sustainable Silver Community in Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) economic development program. Now in its third year, The Valley Sustainable Communities Program's goal is to document a community's assets and increase the likelihood that they will be viewed as progressive and competitive by companies looking to invest in new or expanding locations. The silver level designation recognizes that a community has community-wide sustainability initiatives in place with programs available to support the existing business community and promote economic development. A total of 28 communities across the Valley will have been recognized in the program this year.

HEADLINES

UPDATES

NASA - Space Launch System Test Stand (SLS)

When completed in 2016, the new rocket test stand located at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, will stand 225 feet tall. NASA will hang a large section of the cylindrical core of the Space Launch System from the Test Stand. The SLS will carry astronauts back to the moon and beyond in the next decade. This stand will be completed by a horizontal head piece that will move up and down between its two towers. From it will hang a test version of the liquid hydrogen tank that will help lift the Space Launch System off the ground. A similar but smaller stand is under construction nearby to stress test the liquid oxygen fuel tank. The two stands will cost about \$75 million together and be finished by the middle of 2016 with testing to start in late summer or early fall. SLS is scheduled to be ready for launch in 2018. Applications have opened for the astronaut class of 2017 and people from all walks of life are encouraged to participate.

To apply go to

[usajobs.com \[https://www.usajobs.gov/\]](https://www.usajobs.gov/).

UAH - University of Alabama in Huntsville

UAH will soon complete a new \$2 million wind tunnel system that will be used in propulsion research for Alabama's rapidly expanding aerospace sector. The facility's test sections will be capable of reaching speeds ranging from Mach 1.6, (approximately 1,230 mph) to Mach 3, (which has an airspeed of approximately 2,300 mph). Wind tunnels like the one being constructed at UAH are used in aerodynamic research to study the effects of air moving past solid objects. Construction is scheduled to be completed by year end.

Calhoun Community College

Calhoun will receive two \$100,000 grants through the Appalachian Regional Commission, to help train more utility line workers and increase the number of apprentices in its advanced manufacturing training program. The school will purchase new equipment to teach robotics and other skills needed by potential employers. The grant will allow the college to expand the number of apprenticeships it offers. Calhoun's goal is to partner with more industries and increase their pipeline of apprentices.

PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of November and December NAIDA participated in 4 prospect visits for North Alabama.

Alabama Robotics Technology Park

Phase III of RTP, the \$8.5 million, 31,000 s/f, Integration, Entrepreneurial and Paint/Dispense Training Center, is scheduled for opening early 2016. Use of the park is free to Alabama industries. For a student to train at the Robotics Technology Park, the student must be connected to an industry or participating college. Phase I, Robotics Maintenance Training Center, opened in 2010 and Phase II, Advanced Technology Research and Development Center opened in 2011.

AU's \$13.9 Million Score Board - Cullman County

North Alabama Fabricating Company, Inc. (NAFCO), located in Cullman, fabricated, delivered and erected the massive 850 tons of structural steel to Auburn University's Jordan-Hare Stadium. The steel structure frame for the scoreboard screen was 190 x 97 ft. (10,830 s/f). The screen represents the largest operational scoreboard in any collegiate stadium.

AMERICAN MADE AWARD

Martha Stewart Honors Alabama Entrepreneur

Gina Locklear, owner of Zkano sock company in Fort Payne, has been honored with the "2015 Martha Stewart American Made Award." Judges selected Zkano's sister company, the little River Sock Mill, as one of 10 winners of the award. The winners won a cash prize, were invited to NY for a networking event and lecture series, and the opportunity to be featured in *Martha Stewart Living* magazine.

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