

# HEADLINES

## Expanding Companies

### Morgan County (continued)

**Valley Rubber**, located in Falkville, announced they will invest \$900,000 to add new equipment and create 10 jobs.

## UPDATES

### Limestone County

Nearly 3 years ago the Minnesota-based ATV company known as Polaris opened a manufacturing plant in Huntsville that now employs 1,700 people. The \$142 million plant has an estimated \$2 billion impact on Alabama's economy and is celebrating a milestone by rolling its 1 millionth Ranger off its Alabama assembly line.

GE Aviation takes occupancy at their new \$200 million, 100 acre factory complex in Huntsville. It will be America's first center for mass-producing silicon carbide materials used to manufacture ceramic matrix composites. The first expected delivery of CMC materials from Huntsville will be in mid-2018.

### Lawrence County

Mallard Fox West Industrial Complex and Lawrence County Industrial Airpark are now certified AT&T Fiber ready. The AT&T fiber network provides the bandwidth needed to support data intensive services such as video, collaboration, cloud services and more through products such as Ethernet, Virtual Private Networking, Managed Internet Service and AT&T Business Fiber.

### Madison County

Redstone Arsenal and the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives are working with SunPower Corporation to develop a 10 megawatt alternating current, solar project with battery storage at Redstone Arsenal. This project is one of the three large-scale renewable and alternative energy projects being developed on Army installations in Alabama.

### Morgan County

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 United Launch Alliance celebrated 20 years since breaking ground in Decatur. NAIDA was happy to assist "Project Anchor" in this site search. ULA has had 120 successful launches since beginning operations. The rockets built in Decatur have delivered missions to Mars, supported the national defense and enable technology used on Earth.

## PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of November and December NAIDA assisted with five prospect visits to North Alabama.

## Promoting North Alabama

NAIDA and The Alabama Robotics Technology Park attended the FabTech 2017 Tradeshow in Chicago, Illinois.



## MEDIA

**"The hippest cities in the U.S. everyone under 30 wants to move to"** Huntsville ranked number 16 on the list of top 20 hipster cities in the nation according to a new study by relocation experts with MoveHub. Cities were ranked based on a variety of factors that make them appealing to young people, like the number of tattoo parlors, vegan stores, and microbreweries, as well as the cost of living.

*Source: Business Insider*

## RECOGNITION



Congratulations to Ronnie Smith on his retirement from AIDT. Ronnie has made a positive impact on North Alabama for over two decades.

## NAIDA STAFF

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# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Companies

#### Lauderdale County

**Gemstone Foods, LLC** purchased the former 75,000SF Hillshire Farms processing plant near the Port of Florence. The company has committed to improving and modernizing the aging facility by investing over \$11 million for various renovations, new equipment purchases, and other capital improvements. Gemstone plans to hire 296 employees.

#### Limestone County

**Bocar**, a Tier 1 automotive supplier, announced November 16<sup>th</sup> construction plans for a new automotive plant that will produce aluminum die cast parts. The company will invest \$115 million and will hire over 300 employees. The site is on Bibb-Garrett Road, adjacent to Interstate 65, in the Huntsville portion of Limestone County. BOCAR has existing manufacturing facilities in Germany, Mexico and Japan.



### Expanding Companies

#### Colbert County

**United Treating and Distribution, LLC (UTD)** held a ribbon cutting ceremony November 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate an expansion at their facility in Muscle Shoals. A building and property adjacent to their current location in the Avalon Avenue Industrial Park will add 54,000SF and 5.5 acres to UTD's property. The company currently employs more than 50 people, and that number could increase with the expansion.

#### Morgan County

**Hexcel Corp.** announced plans to add approximately 168,000SF to its facility. This expansion allows room to house a new PAN line and add a carbonization line. The investment will be \$199,400,000 and will add 88 jobs. Construction is scheduled to be completed by June 2021. It will be the first U.S. facility to integrate the PAN line and carbonization line.

## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



**Regions Financial Corporation**

[www.regions.com](http://www.regions.com)

**Contact: Jeff Rabren 205.264.4240**

*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.*

## Promoting North Alabama

NAIDA held our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual North Alabama Economic Development Conference at The Marriott Shoals Hotel and Conference Center in Florence, Alabama on November 14-15, 2017. The NAIDA conference is designed to help strengthen the skills of community leaders in marketing their community to industrial prospects. The conference also strives to provide valuable information from well-known experts in the field of economic development.



Guest Speaker Jason Hamman with The Hamman Consulting Group, discussing corporate site selection.

NAIDA held our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual North Alabama Economic Development Update Luncheon for the Atlanta based Site Location Consultant Colleagues on December 12, 2017 at The Ritz-Carlton Atlanta. There were 39 Site Location Consultants in attendance this year. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our friends and allies who were able to join us.