

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Companies

Morgan County

RUAG Aerospace USA, Inc. will invest \$30.6 million for a manufacturing facility to supply carbon fiber structures, including payload fairings for the Atlas and new Vulcan rockets. RUAG will utilize 130,000 s/f space inside ULA's plant in Decatur and is scheduled to begin operation by late 2016. The company will hire 100 employees by 2017 and plans to open offices in Huntsville.

Expanding Companies

Morgan County

Bunge North America announced the company will add three new production lines to their existing packaging facility to produce products not currently made at the Decatur plant. The company will invest \$11.3 million to make improvements to the building's interior and acquire machinery and equipment. Bunge is a major oilseed processor in the United States, providing protein meal for the livestock industry and edible oils for food service companies and food processors. Bunge also exports grains, oilseeds and related by products, mill corn and rice, and invests in biofuels facilities.

Interstate Billing Service, Inc., founded in Decatur in 1984, announced the company will build a new 36,000 s/f facility. The accounts receivable service has clients in more than 40 states. Construction is scheduled to begin in September and completed fall 2016. This new facility, more than doubling their space, will allow the company to continue to grow and expand their presence throughout the U.S.

Madison County

Lockheed Martin, a global aerospace, defense, security and technologies company, located in Huntsville announced the company will consolidate its Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications (C2BMC) program. C2BMC is the command and control function that enables the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). It provides the warfighter with the capability to plan, monitor, and manage the defense against ballistic missile threats. The consolidation is expected to be completed by June 2016 and bring 100 jobs.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner

BANK  INDEPENDENT

Rooted in Tradition, Focused on the Future

- 1947 Leighton, Bank closed leaving residents without banking services for first time since 1903.
- 1947 Leighton farmers opened The Bank of Leighton, a state chartered bank.
- 1965 Renamed First Colbert Bank.
- 1967 Advanced to a national bank, renamed First Colbert National Bank.
- 1975 The Bank of Florence was chartered.
- 1982 First Colbert National Bank and The Bank of Florence merge to become Bank Independent.

Bank Independent is a locally owned bank and has invested more than a half-billion in loans to citizens and businesses of North Alabama.

Serving 18 communities in six counties in North Alabama with 28 convenient locations.

Bank Independent offers a complete range of banking products and services. Explore their website to determine which services and accounts are right for you.

Contact:

Macke Mauldin

256-386-5080 or visit www.bibank.com

Member



Equal Housing Lender



Bank Independent has continually been named one of America's highest rated banks by Sheshunoff, Inc., an independent bank rating firm.

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.

AZ Technology, located in Huntsville, will invest \$1.75 million to build a 15,500 s/f building allowing the company to increase manufacturing capabilities for its portable optical measurement instruments and satellite/spacecraft coatings. AZ Technology offers paint/coatings with specialized optical properties for use on spacecraft hardware, satellites and terrestrial applications such as solar panels and observatories and can develop and produce paint with properties tailored to the customers' requirements. The company offers measurement and testing services to provide accurate characterizations of customers' existing paints, coatings and materials. The move to their new location is scheduled for April 2016.

Marshall County

TS TECH Alabama, LLC announced plans to build a new 125,000 s/f facility in Boaz. TS Tech manufactures automobile seats for Honda and will begin making seats for Volkswagen in Chattanooga. This expansion will add 100 jobs.

NORTH ALABAMA HEADLINES

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

UPDATES

Limestone County

Polaris Industries is on schedule for spring 2016 startup. The \$48 million, 700,000 s/f facility is still on track to begin production in the latter part of the first quarter. The equipment will be installed at different intervals with most of it being in operation by January 2016. The company will employ 1,700 and hiring is underway with the assistance of Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT).

Colbert County

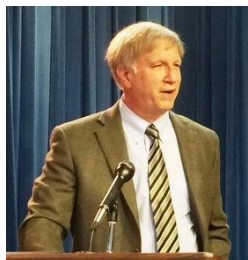
Constellium is a manufacturer of aluminum products and dedicated primarily to aerospace, automotive and packing markets in North America. Because carmakers pledge to increase fuel efficiency by 2025, Constellium plans to spend \$750 million between now and 2020. The Ford F150 pickup will add 1,000 pounds of new aluminum sheet to every truck. Constellium will provide 750 million pounds of additional aluminum for the F150.

Madison County

Simulation Technologies, Inc. received the Army's "Phase I Small Business Innovation Research" contract that will fund research for the execution of software logic regardless of screen size. The software will allow warfighters to maintain situational awareness as they transition between mounted and unmounted tactical environments. Following the success of Phase I, the company will use the newly-developed framework to build a prototype application that can be accessed from a workstation, smartphone or any platform in between.

America's Top Rocket Engineer for 2015

Dr. William Emrich, an engineer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, will receive the "**American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 2015 Engineer of the Year**" award. Dr. Emrich was honored for his work in nuclear thermal rocket propulsion. He built and runs the *Nuclear Thermal Rocket Element Environment Simulator (NTREES)* at Marshall where engineers can perform non-nuclear tests on elements of potential nuclear rocket fuel. The simulator reproduces conditions nuclear fuel would encounter in a nuclear engine.



Dr. William Emrich

PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of July and August NAIDA assisted 6 prospect visits to North Alabama.

EDUCATION

Cullman County

Academics and Real World Experience Come Together

Cullman County Board of Education's Institute Day program, piloted by Cullman County, included hundreds of teachers who toured a dozen local industries and learned about industrial growth and career technical skills. The purpose of the tours was to show how industry jobs have changed in recent years and dispel the myth that jobs in industry are dirty, manual labor, unskilled, low wage, and no future. This was the perfect opportunity for industry leaders to discuss what they want to see in future employees and to show educators the technical jobs that can be obtained with certification or two-year technical degrees.

AWARDS

Cullman County

"Revitalization and Redevelopment of Downtown Cullman"

The city of Cullman won the Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) given by the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) for the revitalization and historic preservation plan it developed and executed in the wake of a devastating tornado in 2011. The plan resulted in the creation and retention of jobs, increased sales tax revenue, preservation of historic buildings and the development of new commercial and residential spaces downtown. The CEDA program recognizes communities throughout a seventeen-state region in the categories of business retention and expansion, business recruitment, community development and community involvement in the category of communities with 5,001 to 15,000 in population.

DeKalb County

The "**Award of Merit**" was received by DeKalb County Economic Development Authority for their new website at the 2015 Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) conference. Websites were judged on appearance, clarity of message, message impact, execution of message and clever or unique concept.

2015 Silver Shovel Award

Alabama won the Silver Shovel Award from Area Development Magazine for economic development. This is the 10th consecutive year Alabama has earned a Shovel Award.

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