

# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Expanding Companies

#### Cullman County

**Topre** announced a \$21 million expansion for a new hot press line and a new 42,500 sf distribution and storage facility. Due to this expansion there will be 54+ new jobs added.

#### Limestone County

**Polaris** plans to transfer three product lines from a northwest Iowa plant that is closing to the facility in Huntsville/Limestone County. The product lines to be transferred to the Huntsville plant are Brutus, Bobcat and Gravelly. Currently the Huntsville facility has about 400 employees and they plan to employ at least 1,700 people. That number would include the employees who transfer.

#### Madison County

**GATR Technologies**, a company responsible for creating portable satellite antennas, will expand its facility in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park. The new facility will combine its growing production operations, in addition to accommodating its engineering, business development and administrative departments in one central location. GATR currently employs 125 personnel, but anticipates doubling the number of its employees in the next two years to support the growth of its business and the local economy.



**Boeing**, the aerospace manufacturer in Huntsville, is looking toward the future with plans for new jobs, investment and breakthrough developments at its operations in the state. They currently have approximately 2,700 employees and expect to add 400 more by 2020, along with an additional capital investment of \$70 million. A recent economic impact study showed the company contributes more than \$2 billion annually to the state's economy and sustains nearly 8,400 direct and indirect jobs.

#### Morgan County

**Wayne Farms** held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new 15,000 sf, \$5 million facility, called the Customer Innovation Center. This facility will be used for research, development, and test kitchen for the prepared foods that Wayne Farms produces at its other two facilities in Morgan County. This will create 20 jobs including a research and development director, pilot plant manager and multiple food scientists, research and development technicians and maintenance positions. The facility should be complete in 12-18 months.

## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



Engineering. Environmental. Answers.

**Contact: Chris Ross, 256.572.9173 or  
Jana Monday, 256.572.9102**

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

*CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc., is a diversified professional services firm specializing in civil, utility, transportation, geotechnical, environmental remediation, solid waste and environmental consulting.*

*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.*

### Updates

According to the U.S. Census Bureau two of the top 5 Alabama towns gaining the largest number of new residents from 2015-2016 are Huntsville with 2,136 and Madison with 989 new residents gained. If Huntsville's population continues to surge at current levels it will overtake Birmingham as Alabama's largest city. Meanwhile, Madison remains as the state's 10th largest city.

#### Promoting North Alabama

NAIDA held our 17th Annual North Alabama Economic Development Luncheon at the "21" Club in New York. There were 15 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 in New York and a special thanks to our speakers Steve Spencer with the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and Bob Smith with the Alabama Department of Commerce.



# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Companies

#### Huntsville/Madison County

**Blue Origin**, a spaceflight company started by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, announced plans to build a facility in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park. The company will manufacture the BE-4 rocket engines creating more than 340 manufacturing jobs and \$200 million in capital investment.



#### Marshall County

**Global Aviation Solutions (GAS)**, an aviation company, was awarded a contract worth more than \$40 million by the Republic of Austria Ministry of Defense to upgrade its fleet of Black Hawk helicopters. The company plans to add another 25 to 50 positions over the next two years. Most of the jobs will be located at the new hangar at the Guntersville Airport. The positions will include mechanical and electrical engineers, aviation mechanics, electricians, technicians, inspectors and other highly skilled professionals.

#### Morgan County

**Dynetics, Inc.** announced that it has been awarded the prime contract, approximately \$221 million, by NASA's Glenn Research Center to manage the design, analysis, manufacturing, testing, and assembly of the Universal Stage Adapter (USA) for the Space Launch System (SLS). The USA will be designed, built, and tested in Huntsville and at the new Dynetics Aerospace Structures Complex and the RUAG Space USA facility, both in Morgan County. The facility will include a 100 foot tall building designed to test launch vehicles and other large aerospace structures. This is proposed to be the first of multiple buildings in a planned aerospace complex at the site. The project will create 10 jobs. The Dynetics Morgan County facility should break ground this summer and the USA assembly facility will be completed in 2019.

**RUAG**, a Swiss space company, opened a co-location operation with ULA in Decatur to manufacture the composite enclosures or fairings used to cover satellites as they are launched into space. This operation represents a strategic partnership with their customer United Launch Alliance. The company plans to hire 100 people and will hire more if its American venture succeeds.

## PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of May and June NAIDA assisted with four prospect visits to North Alabama.

## EDUCATION - TRAINING

Alabama's Community College system is one of six across the country selected for a new app-development curriculum launched by Apple. Drake State Community and Technical College in Huntsville was one of the three Alabama Colleges selected for the Apple Tech Training Program. This program will allow students to learn coding and app development using Apple's Swift programming language.

## MEDIA

Huntsville, Alabama was ranked No. 1 on the list of the "Top Cities for Tech Jobs" by ZipRecruiter and Payscale and is one of the fastest growing tech towns with over 300% year over year tech job growth from 2016 to 2017. The city's top tech careers are software and systems engineers, systems and information technology specialists, and help desk support.

Alabama was the fastest growing craft beer state by number of barrels of beer produced, from 2011 to 2016. The numbers were gathered by the Brewers Association and published in the latest edition of its magazine, *The New Brewer*.

## AWARDS

For a record-setting 5th time, Big Bob Gibson's BBQ of Decatur, Alabama, has been announced the World Champion at the World Championship BBQ Cooking Contest held in Memphis, Tennessee.



## NAIDA STAFF

**S. Brooks Kracke**, President/CEO  
**Cindy Burns**, Vice President  
**Jason Wright**, Senior Project Manager  
**Paige Breland**, Administrative Assistant

[bkracke@naida.com](mailto:bkracke@naida.com)  
[cburns@naida.com](mailto:cburns@naida.com)  
[jwright@naida.com](mailto:jwright@naida.com)  
[pbreland@naida.com](mailto:pbreland@naida.com)

