

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Companies

Madison County

BWX Technologies, Inc., a leading supplier of nuclear components to the U.S. government, held its grand opening ceremony on June 21st at Huntsville's Cummings Research Park. The company has a contract to develop products for aerospace and military including a nuclear propulsion system that could send rockets to Mars.

Electro Optic Systems (EOS), an Australian Aerotech and defense company, will invest \$2 million in a new manufacturing facility in Huntsville. Within the first year of operation EOS expects to hire up to 100 employees.

Facebook announced plans on June 14, 2018 to build a \$750 million data center in Huntsville. The new data center will create 100 jobs and boost Huntsville's already emerging technology sector.



LG Electronics will open a \$28 million solar panel plant at the company's existing Huntsville campus, creating 160 jobs. Starting in early 2019 the new factory is expected to produce 500 megawatts of high-performance solar panels annually.

Expanding Companies

DeKalb County

Koch Foods, located in Henagar, will invest \$23,914,915 to renovate its facility by adding equipment upgrades. The upgrades include a new climate control system and hatchery automation system to make the facility one of the most energy efficient hatcheries in North America. Once completed the renovated hatchery will have a weekly setting capacity of more than 3.7 million eggs.

Koch Foods, located in Crossville, tripled their facility with an expansion of \$26,709,050. The new building addition and upgraded equipment added 39 new jobs.

GH Metal Solutions, located in Fort Payne, will make an expansion of \$3,200,000 to upgrade equipment.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



Bradley is a full service law firm with over 500 attorneys representing regional, national and international clients. Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, the firm has nine offices in six states, strategically located in the District of Columbia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Bradley's Economic Development team has handled some of the largest projects in Alabama, as well as significant projects in 29 other states. We are proud to be listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for having the most ranked attorneys in Economic Development.

For More Information Contact:
Chris Grissom or Alex Leath
205.521.8000

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

May and June were busy months for NAIDA events and activity. NAIDA held its 19th annual North Alabama Update Luncheon on May 7, 2018 in Chicago. 31 Chicago based guests were in attendance of which 14 were site location consultants and 4 existing company officials. NAIDA also hosted a first time "Doing Business in North Alabama" business seminar in Schaumburg, IL.

On June 4, 2018 NAIDA hosted its 18th Annual North Alabama Update Luncheon in New York. 17 New York area guests joined our North Alabama host delegation for the luncheon. NAIDA hosted a second business seminar in Philadelphia, PA. 8 site location consultants from the Philadelphia area attended the event to learn more about the business environment of the North Alabama region.

A special thanks to the North Alabama economic development community, the Alabama Department of Commerce, AIDT, Alabama Department of Revenue, TVA, and EDPA.

HEADLINES

Expanding Companies (continued)

Morgan County

GE Appliances, a Haier company, will invest \$115 million to expand its manufacturing facility in Decatur. This expansion will add 255 jobs to the plant, bringing the total number of full-time employees to nearly 1,300. Approximately 40,000 sf will be added to the plant, along with new cutting-edge manufacturing equipment that further advances GE Appliances' plan to transition to a fully interconnected digital factory. The investment will help GE Appliances increase production to meet increasing demand for its top-mounted freezer refrigerators.

Updates

Cullman County

Metrology South, Inc. (Met South), a leader in automotive metrology systems, held its ribbon cutting ceremony June 27, 2018 at its new location in Hanceville. The company relocated from Birmingham to Hanceville to take advantage of being in close proximity to Wallace State Community College and the quality workforce it produces. Met South has built a \$644,000 facility and has brought 12 jobs to Cullman County.

Technology Village Cullman (TVC), a joint venture between the City of Cullman, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Wallace State Community College, in partnership with the University of Alabama, has hired John Wessel as Director. The Technology Village will be an incubator focused on fostering an entrepreneurial culture and linking entrepreneurs with resources to start and grow their businesses. The program is still under development, but plans indicate that participants will be selected through a competitive process. The participants will receive assistance in: business coaching, mentoring, networking, product pricing, creating a business plan, identifying and securing funding, identifying and contacting customers, etc. Once these businesses are ready, they will leave the program and another one will take its place.

Education-Training

AL.COM listed the Top 20 high schools in the state of Alabama with the highest overall average ACT score during the 2016-2017 school year. 7 of the top 20 schools listed are located in the North Alabama.

PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of May and June NAIDA assisted with 8 prospect visits to North Alabama.

PROMOTING NORTH ALABAMA

NAIDA attended the Select USA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. June 20-22, 2018. There we visited with numerous site selection consultants and foreign based company executives interested in establishing operations in the U.S.



Media

An article by **Livability.com** lists "Why Huntsville is the best place in America to pursue a STEM Career." Huntsville is home to around 40,000 STEM professionals and almost 4,000 aerospace engineers. The field makes up 16% of the workforce. The city is home to Cummings Research Park. The education opportunities are fantastic with the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama A&M University as well as many local and public schools known for above-average test scores. One of the main reasons to pursue a STEM Career in Huntsville is the fact that the city has some of the most well known employers such as the US Army, NASA, Dynetics, Boeing, and Blue Origin.

Awards-Recognition

In the 2017 New and Expanded Report from the Alabama Department of Commerce, Cullman County is ranked #1 in total number of projects and in existing industry expansions. Morgan County and Madison County were ranked in Alabama's Top 3 for new capital investment created. Morgan County ranked #2 with \$516.3 million and Madison County ranked #3 with \$492.2 million.

NAIDA STAFF

S. Brooks Kracke, President/CEO bkracke@naida.com
Cindy Bums, Vice President cbums@naida.com
Jason Wright, Senior Project Manager jwright@naida.com
Paige Breland, Administrative Assistant pbreland@naida.com

