

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Expanding Companies

Colbert County

Great Southern Wood Preserving, Inc., a manufacturer of YellaWood® brand products, announced that it will invest \$6.3 million to add pressure treatment capacity and new inventory space to its Shoals Commerce Park facility. The expansion is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2019.

Cullman County

AGCOR Steel broke ground on its new facility to be located on 22 acres along Industrial Park Road in Good Hope. The company formerly located in Vinemont, will be Good Hope's first manufacturer. AGCOR's move is the result of a joint effort between the City of Good Hope, City of Cullman and Cullman County. The company is spending \$400,000 for the land, with the three local governments each providing \$133,333 in tax incentives. In addition to the cost of the land, AGCOR will make an overall capital investment of \$6.3 million in the new 128,000 square foot facility. The new building will allow the addition of a steel truss production line and a near doubling of AGCOR's workforce, adding up to 25 new jobs to the existing 28-member staff; it is expected to generate annual tax revenues for the County and two municipalities of more than \$500,000.

Jackson County



NCI Manufacturing Inc., an automotive product manufacturer, held its ribbon cutting ceremony for its \$3 million expansion of Plant 2 on October 5, 2018. The new plant will create 20 jobs and will be used for the production of heat shields for exhaust systems.

Limestone County

North Alabama Laserfab, Inc., specializing in laser cutting, welding, metal stampings, metal bending and fabrication, will invest \$1.5 million in an expansion to add a new Trumpf Tube Laser. This investment will add an additional 7 employees over the next 3 years bringing the total employment to 28.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



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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 23rd Annual North Alabama Economic Development Conference at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Conference Center in Florence, Alabama on September 18-19, 2018. The focus of this year's conference was training and education opportunities for future workforce needs and communities competitiveness in the future. The audience heard from Dr. Jay Baron, former President & CEO of the Center for Automotive Research, Dr. Sam Addy from the University of Alabama, Dr. Joe Summers from Auburn University and Ted Abernathy from Economic Leadership. A panel of regional educators addressed existing industry needs through the eyes of educators.



Pictured above: panel of regional educators, Angie Harris, Erica Griffin, Jason Davidson, & Billy Troutman.

During the month of October NAIDA attended the Southern Automotive Conference in Atlanta, GA, exhibited with The Alabama Department of Commerce at the Automotive Manufacturing meetings event in Novi, Michigan, and held the Annual Commerce Appreciation Luncheon in Montgomery, AL.



The AL Dept. of Commerce and NAIDA at the Manufacturing meetings in Novi, Michigan

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Expanding Companies (continued)

Morgan County

Neo Industries will invest \$4.0 million on an expansion to install new equipment and add an additional 6,000 sf. The new equipment will allow Neo to perform additional and new functions than the current EDT machine at the facility. Some of these functions will be to process longer rolls of material, add a texturing design, which improves the roll finish, and produce a tungsten carbide coating infused into the roll surface. The project should be complete by April 1, 2019.

Updates

Alabama Department of Commerce and AIDT announced that former Honda manufacturing executive Chuck Ernst, has been appointed to lead the Alabama Robotics Technology Park (RTP). Ernst will work with RTP's robotics and automation professions and AIDT leadership as a new training program launches. RTP will add next generation technologies, manufacturing simulation areas and training solutions that support key Alabama industry sectors such as automotive, aerospace, aviation and logistics.



HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology opened a fourth building on its biotech campus. Four companies already on site, Discovery Life Sciences (formerly ConversantBio), Microarrays, Alimetrix and iRepertoire expand their operations by moving into larger space in the 105,000 sf lab and office building. "We came to HudsonAlpha with just a few people and an idea," said Marshall Schreeder, cofounder of ConversantBio, now Executive VP, Corporate Development for Discovery Life Sciences. "And now we've grown to ten times the number of employees and merged with another company. Being on the HudsonAlpha campus not only puts us at the center of innovation and collaboration, but we also have room to grow."



PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of September and October NAIDA assisted with two prospect visits to North Alabama.

Awards

The Cullman Economic Development Agency earned international recognition for two of its industrial projects and received a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its Educators in Industry program, along with a Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award for its AGCOR Steel Expansion/Retention Project during the International Economic Development Council's Annual Conference held in Atlanta, GA. For the Educators in Industry program Cullman EDA partnered alongside local industry and education to more than 300 secondary-education students and educators on 14 tours of the local industrial parks, the hospital, and technical programs at Wallace State Community College. Cullman EDA Director Dale Greer says the program is meant to expose teachers to some of the area's industries and the jobs that are available in them, which can help the teachers guide local students to those jobs and have those students find a good career in the Cullman County area.

Education

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a \$2 million grant to Wallace State Community College of Hanceville, Alabama to build a technical education center that will help workers gain new, in-demand skills. According to grantee estimates, the project is expected to create 68 jobs. This investment will establish the college's new technical education center, housing a welding program and business incubator. The welding program upgrades will support and expand a pipeline of technical education for the region, while the incubator space will support the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments.

Featured Properties

There are 3 new spec buildings available:

- 1.) 40,000 sf building located in the Rogersville Business Park
- 2.) 227,000 sf building located in the Southpoint Industrial Park
- 3.) 110,000 sf building located in the Southpoint Industrial Park

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