

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Companies

Franklin County

Girard Industries, a maker of awnings for recreational vehicles, will be the first business to break ground at the West Franklin Regional Industrial Park in Red Bay. The California-based company has a strong commitment to Tiffin Motorhomes, also located in Red Bay. The new plant is expected to be in operation by early 2019 and employ 25 the first year.

Morgan County

Gregory Industries, one of the largest manufacturers of highway guardrails in Canton, Ohio, announced in December they will be purchasing 100,000 sf of an existing facility and 13 acres of property in Decatur and will invest \$4.21 million for a galvanized steel facility. They will initially hire 20 people and then an additional four in three years. The Gregory plant will feature a tubing mill and a roll-forming mill. Operations are expected to begin in June 2019 after the renovations are completed.

Expanding Companies

Cullman County

North Alabama Fabricating Company (NAFCO), a steel fabricating company, has begun construction on a \$4,000,000 expansion that includes a solar power system. This upgrade will bring in high efficiency equipment to improve production capacity and the solar power system will allow NAFCO to produce their own energy for manufacturing.

Jackson County

WestRock, a Paper mill located in Stevenson, continues to add new equipment and upgrade existing equipment. In November WestRock announced they are spending \$14 million on new equipment.

Scottsboro Aluminum will spend \$2.7 million to purchase a closed aluminum smelting facility, formerly known as Southeastern Metals. This will add 35 new jobs.

Madison County

LG Electronics, located in Jetplex Industrial Park, will invest \$28 million to expand their solar manufacturing in 2019 by creating a solar module assembly plant at its existing campus. (continued on next page)

NAIDA Gold Corporate Partners

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T.W. Frierson Contractor, Inc.

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Tom Gregory
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These companies have 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 attended the FABTECH show held at the Georgia World Congress Center on November 6-8, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia.

On December 13, 2018 NAIDA held our 21st Annual North Alabama Economic Development Update Luncheon for the Atlanta based Site Location Consultant Colleagues at the Ritz-Carlton Atlanta. In attendance this year were 34 Site Location Consultants, our local economic developers, state partners, and corporate partners. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our friends and allies who were able to join us.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year for 2019.



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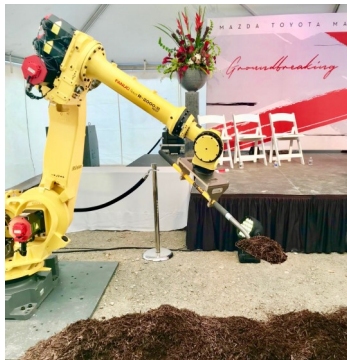
Expanding Companies (continued)

This will be the first solar panel production facility in Alabama. The factory will have two production lines at an existing building on the company's 48-acre campus in Huntsville. The employment will increase to more than 400. The facility is expected to begin production later this month and produce more than a million solar panels each year. This operation will assemble LG's "Neon 2" series 60-cell modules-high performance solar panels.

Updates

Cullman County

Cullman was awarded a \$14.2 million federal grant ensuring a 3.5-mile stretch of Alabama 157 will be four-laned, with work anticipated to begin in 2020. This project will help with traffic flow in front of Cullman Regional Medical Center for emergency traffic and industrial traffic coming from Industrial Park V. The project will be completed by 2025.



Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, USA held its groundbreaking ceremony on November 16, 2018 in Huntsville at the site that will be home to Alabama's next auto assembly plant. The \$1.6 billion facility will produce 300,000 vehicles annually, and create 4,000 jobs beginning in 2021.

Limestone County

Redline Steel, a custom steel manufacturing company, held a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 27, 2018 for its 108,000 sf facility in Tanner. The company has grown quickly in just two years from 5,000 sf to more than 100,000 sf and currently employees around 60 people.

Media

According to an article by axios.com Alabama has gained the most automotive manufacturing jobs over the past 18 years.

PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of November and December NAIDA assisted with 4 prospect visits to North Alabama.

Education



Muscle Shoals Career Academy is the first Career and Technical Facility in the state of Alabama to earn AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Certification. To earn the STEM Certification, Muscle Shoals Career Academy had to demonstrate adherence to the AdvancED STEM Standards as reflected by the school's performance across 11 rigorous STEM Indicators. With the AdvancED STEM Certification in Muscle Shoals, Alabama becomes only the third state to have a technology and career facility to receive this distinction.

Cullman County

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, AL held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new \$7.7 million Technical Education center for Welding and Entrepreneurship. The center will feature 62 welding booths, robotic and resistance welding cells, additive manufacturing, CNC automation and plasma cutting and much more. The new facility is expected to create 98 new jobs and invest approximately 25 million in payroll revenue into the community in the first 8 years. The college plans to open the new center in April 2020.



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