

# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Expanding Companies

#### Cullman County

**Rusken Packaging, Inc.** was approved for a 10 year tax abatement by Cullman City Council. The abatement is for a \$7.8 million capital investment to expand its facilities. This project will bring a new product line and create 20-25 new jobs.

#### DeKalb County

**YS, Inc.**, announced a new manufacturing and rail off loading facility in Fort Payne in 2018. Currently the rail off loading facility is under construction and the manufacturing facility opened in 2019. They will invest 4.3 million and hire 25 people.

#### Limestone County

**Indorama Ventures Sustainable Solutions, LLC**, (formerly Custom Polymers) of Athens, will make a total capital investment of \$40,437,000 to expand its facility. 100,000 SF will be added and 60 jobs will be created.

#### Morgan County

**Diamond Pro Corporation**, will invest \$1,000,000 by adding 22,500 SF of new space and new equipment to meet demand for product. This expansion will create 50 jobs.

**Ascend Performance Materials**, will invest \$175,660,500 to add three generation units. These units will help support growth in production of adiponitrile (ADN) and hexamethylenediamine, both used to make nylon salts and specialized chemicals. Construction will begin in January 2020 and will be completed around December of 2021. The expansion will create 10 jobs.

### Updates

#### Cullman County

**AGCOR Steel** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 6, 2019 for its new 128,000 SF facility located in Good Hope, AL. The new plant will also include a 9,000 SF expansion for a steel truss facility. Since moving from its original location in Vinemont, the manufacturer and retailer of metal siding and trusses, has doubled the number of employees from 25 to 60.

## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) delivers engineering, design, planning, environmental and construction services for the built environment. Founded in 1973, we have grown to an 1,100-person corporation operating from 34 offices across the US. S&ME is owned by our employees who remain faithful to our core values of safety, quality and client service. Our goal is to provide practical solutions to our clients' infrastructure, development and environmental challenges.

We care about our clients and devote our abundant resources and technical expertise to helping them safely and efficiently meet their objectives. S&ME's experience and commitment to good communication, responsiveness, technical innovation, and teamwork has led us to winning over 40 Engineering Excellence Awards in the last decade from the American Council of Engineering Companies recognizing "engineering achievements which demonstrate the highest degree of merit and engineering".

You can obtain more information regarding S&ME at

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

or contact Zack Young 256.755.0714

*This company has made a commitment to economic development success in North Alabama. We hope that companies considering a location in North Alabama will look to our Corporate Partners for their project services expertise.*

## PROMOTING NORTH ALABAMA

NAIDA and Marshall County Economic Development Council attended the FABTECH show held in Chicago, IL on November 11-14th, 2019 .



(Jason Wright with NAIDA and Matt Arnold with MCEDC)

On December 3, 2019 NAIDA held its Annual North Alabama Economic Development Update Luncheon for our Atlanta based Site Location Consultant Colleagues at the Ritz Carlton in downtown Atlanta. In attendance this year were 42 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.

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### Updates

#### Jackson County

The City of Scottsboro Airport Authority has been awarded approximately \$1,300,000 this past year for airport upgrades. One portion will replace outdated lighting and re-stripe and seal the runway. A second portion will be a 50/50 grant to begin replacing 40 year old hangers. This will also open up space for the city to begin recruiting potential aerospace related industry.

#### Limestone County

**Carpenter Technology** held a grand opening ceremony for its new Emerging Technology Center (ETC) on December 4, 2019 in Athens, AL. The new manufacturing facility will produce high end specialty alloy products, primarily for the aerospace and energy markets.



#### Madison County

**Teledyne Brown Engineering** was awarded a contract to continue to provide payload operations in support of the International Space Station from the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. Teledyne Brown Engineering has managed the ISS Payload Operations for over 20 years, supplying over 150,000 hours of 24/7 support. This extended contract will allow the company to continue to help NASA prepare missions, manage spaceflight operations, and train both crew and flight controllers.

**Boeing** cleared a crucial test on the way to returning the United States to human spaceflight launch capabilities by completing a successful pad abort test of the CST-100 Starliner on November 4, 2019. The Starliner's pad abort test is a critical milestone ahead of flying Boeing and NASA astronauts to the orbiting laboratory on Starliner's Crew Flight Test, and for flying operational missions to the station for NASA in the near future.

## PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of November and December NAIDA assisted with 2 prospect visits to North Alabama.

### Education-Training

*Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)*, a company that provides labor market data to leaders in higher education, economic development, workforce development, talent acquisition, and site selection, has ranked **Calhoun Community College as #1** in awarding degrees in Advanced Manufacturing among all community colleges, technical colleges and universities across the United States. Statistics show Calhoun awarded 220 Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Advanced Manufacturing over a one year period.

#### Jackson County

**Northeast Alabama Community College** will offer the Google IT Support Professional Certificate starting in January 2020. This certificate serves as a credential that can be used to acquire a job as a Computer Specialist. The program is part of Grow with Google, the tech company's initiative to create economic opportunities for all. No experience or college degree is required to enter the IT Support Professional Certificate Program at Northeast Alabama Community College. The program will consist of five, two-hour credit courses. The average time it takes to complete the course is around 6 months.

### Media

Alabama Department of Labor announced that Alabama had set a new historic low unemployment rate of 2.7%. Alabama has matched or surpassed the national annual job growth rate for the past seven months.



## NAIDA STAFF

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