

# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Companies

#### Limestone County

**Shape Corporation** announced the company will invest \$24 million to build a new injection molding and roll forming operation on a 34 acre site in Breeding Industrial Park in Athens. The facility will employ 170 workers over two phases of the project. Shape Corporation serves the automotive, office furniture, medical, agriculture and other industries.

### Expanding Companies

#### Limestone County

**Asahi Kasei Plastics**, located in Elm Industrial Park, Athens, has invested \$4 million with plans to grow the operation beyond its original scope to create a third production line. The facility will transition to a 24-hour production cycle when fully operational in June and the third line is scheduled to begin in September 2016. The company plans to add 8-10 employees for the third line. Asahi manufactures plastic pellets from resins that are used by injection molding companies to manufacture everything from automotive parts to office chairs and pressure vessels for swimming pools and spa bathtubs.

#### Morgan County

**Nucor Steel** will invest \$4.4 million this year at their steel manufacturing plant in Decatur. The company will purchase new equipment for Nucor's hot mill pickle line. This will allow for a broader range of products to reach additional markets and attract new customers. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

## UPDATES

Custom Synthetic Fibers, located in Rogersville, is on schedule to begin operations this summer. The company leased a 40,000 s/f spec building in December 2015 and is in the process of doubling the size of the plant to 80,000 s/f. There will be 50 employees hired initially and up to 80 within five years.

## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner



A full-service general contracting and construction management firm, Fite has earned its reputation as one of the premier building partners in the Southeast by delivering quality jobs through experienced construction professional, dependable communication with owners and architects, and a commitment to detailed follow-through during the entire building process. Our team excels in both design-build and traditional construction projects.

**Contact: Jack Fite 256.353.5759**

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



STRIVING TO LIVE OUR PURPOSE ONE PERCENT BETTER EVERY DAY

*This company has made a commitment to economic development in North Alabama and we encourage companies considering a location in North Alabama to utilize the services of our Corporate Partners.*

## EDUCATION - TRAINING

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama in Huntsville, donated 45 V6 engines to educational programs in 6 counties. The new engines will be replacing engines that are up to 10 years old. Toyota's investment in education will provide high school students the ability to learn new skills and stimulate their interest in the automotive manufacturing industry. Working on the new engines will allow students to enter the automotive workforce immediately as a result of their hands-on experience.



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*Educational Updates Continued*

**Robotics Technology Park (RTP) Phase 3**, located in Limestone County, has opened.

**Phase 3 - Integration, Entrepreneurial and Paint Dispense Training Facility**



**At no cost, Alabama Companies can use the facility to:**

- Build, install and adapt automation equipment for new and existing manufacturing processes.
- Train employees before installing the automation equipment in their plants.
- Send employees for training in new and existing manual and robotic dispense techniques for paint, adhesives, sealer, epoxy and other materials.
- Research and test various dispense processes.

*Other adjoining facilities in the park:*

*Phase 1, Maintenance and Automation Training*

*Phase 2, Research and Development*

*For more information visit [www.alabamartp.org](http://www.alabamartp.org).*

## **H**udsonAlpha Institute will Collaborate with Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy

Huntsville's HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology will join a major new cancer-fighting effort that will focus on the emerging field of cancer immunotherapy, which uses the body's own immune system to fight cancer cells. Six major cancer centers are leading the effort with collaboration from more than 300 scientists and 40-plus research centers including HudsonAlpha. Any breakthrough made at one center is immediately available to another center. The Parker Institute is bringing together scientists and entrepreneurs. This research brings health solutions from the laboratory bench to patients much more quickly than in traditional organizations. HudsonAlpha, founded in 2008, is honored to be a part of this unique research effort.

## PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of March and April NAIDA participated in 5 prospect visits for North Alabama.

## MEDIA

### Huntsville #1

For the 2nd consecutive year, Huntsville offers the best career prospects for college graduates planning a job in the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics fields (STEM). Of 330 cities analyzed by *NerdWallet*, Huntsville ranked #1 for STEM graduates. The City ranks high for job opportunities, average salary and cost of living. There are 152 STEM employees per 1,000 total jobs in Huntsville.

### Site Selection Magazine - Micropolitan Areas

Cullman ranked No. 2, Scottsboro No. 8 and Albertville No. 29 in 2015 *Top State by Number of Projects in Top Micropolitan Areas* out of 575 in the United States by Site Selection Magazine. The rankings are based on corporate facility investment (cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover at least one county). A Micropolitan statistical area is defined as one or more adjacent counties that have at least one urban core area of at least 10,000 population but less than 50,000, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.

Source: Conway Projects Database

## AWARDS

*Trade & Industry Development Magazine* selected two North Alabama counties for their **2016 Corporate Investment & Community Impact (CICI) Award**. Jackson County for the Google data center project and Limestone County for the Polaris manufacturing project.

### "State of the Year"

Alabama was named by *Business Facilities*, an economic development magazine, as their 2015 State of the Year.

## NAIDA STAFF



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