

# HEADLINES

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Updates

#### Cullman County

**REHAU** was approved for a 10-year abatement in July, with a \$12.5 million capital investment to support an expansion of the company's production facility. REHAU has recently amended the capital investment amount to \$24.8 million and increased its facility expansion. This expansion is expected to add an additional 42 jobs.

**HomTex Inc.**, a textile manufacturer located in Cullman, was one of the first companies in the state to allocate a capital investment to establish PPE production. Since shifting its production focus, HomTex has turned out nearly 1 million of its washable, reusable cotton face masks. New production lines will create 100 manufacturing jobs in Cullman.

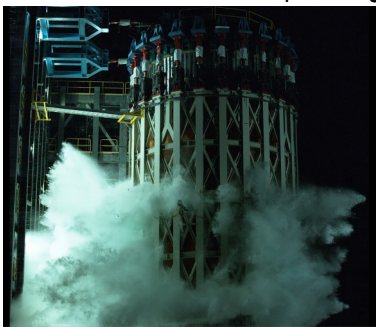
#### Morgan County

**Best & Brightest Initiative**, a comprehensive incentive package recruiting STEM graduates to the city of Decatur, has received \$120,000 from the State as part of a pilot scholarship program. The scholarship program requires the following: The recipient must have a STEM degree from an Alabama four-year institution and be a new resident of the City of Decatur. The incentive package includes student loan repayment up to \$3,000 per year for up to 5 years (\$15,000 maximum).

#### NASA has a successful completion of the Space Launch System (SLS) Structural Testing Campaign for the Artemis lunar missions.

The SLS structural qualification test campaign concluded on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Huntsville, AL, as NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center engineers purposely pushed a liquid oxygen tank test article to its limits using water to simulate liquid oxygen. The tank test is part of the SLS core stage that produces 2 million pounds of thrust to help launch the rocket. The test ensures the rocket's structure can

endure the rigors of launch and safely send astronauts to the moon on the Artemis missions.



## NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner

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Bank Independent is a locally owned, community bank with over \$1.9 billion in assets and more than 630 team members in North Alabama. Our 28 sales office locations serve communities across seven counties, and our digital sales office serves customers across the country. Since our founding in 1947, we've been committed to making a positive difference in people's lives because everyone benefits when we invest in the people and businesses of the communities we serve.

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*These companies have 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.*

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Shoals Economic Development Authority's Remote Shoals Program



Remote Shoals launched in June 2019 with a mission to recruit 10 remote workers to move to and work from the Shoals. The program had such a successful first year that it is now seeking 25 new remote workers. Program applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- You must make \$52,000 or more per year
- You can relocate to the Shoals area within 6 months of being selected
- Full-time remote employment or self employed outside Colbert and Lauderdale Counties.
- You are 18 or older and eligible to work in the United States.

To learn more or to apply, visit <https://remoteshoals.com/>

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#### Broadband Internet Service for rural North Alabama

To improve economic growth and education the following rural areas in North Alabama are receiving assistance with broadband internet service:

- North Alabama Electric Co-op recognized the need for dependable and affordable communication services within their service area. They offer the service to an estimated 17,000 people in Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb counties.
- Scottsboro Electric Power Board offers internet, digital cable and telephone service to their more than 8,200 customers in Scottsboro, Jackson County.
- Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative is the largest member-owned telecommunications cooperative in the state of Alabama serving thousands of home and businesses across DeKalb and Jackson counties. Their fiber network offers customers access to some of the fastest internet speeds in the country, including gigabit access in many areas.
- Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corp. has recently taken on the task of building a fiber-optic network for the purpose of providing high-speed internet, telephone and other services to its customers in Lawrence and Morgan counties. The project should be complete within five years with an investment of \$94-\$100 million. Joe Wheeler has over 43,000 customers.
- Cullman Electric Co-op announced they will be building 256 miles of 144 strand fiber connection to all of its substations. They will also be building 553 miles of secondary fiber which will help them to connect those members along the path. The Co-op has 42,000 customers in Cullman and Winston counties.

### Media

According to **PARCA's** latest analysis of the U.S. Census 2019, Huntsville's population has surpassed Montgomery's, making **Huntsville the second largest city in Alabama**. If the current trends prevail Huntsville could surpass Birmingham within the next few years to become the state's largest city. Since 2010, Huntsville has had an 11% gain adding 19,633 residents, the city of Madison had an 18% gain adding 8,037 residents and the city of Athens had a 24% gain adding 5,372 residents. All three cities rank in the top 5 for growth.

## AVAILABLE BUILDINGS



**SouthPoint Business Park**



<b>AL-172</b> 108,080 SF available Q4 2020
<b>AL-167</b> 173, 888 SF Available Now
<b>AL-159</b> 404,738 SF available Q3 2021 <i>Sub-dividable minimum size 203,138 SF</i>

***The SouthPoint Business Park is located on the NE corner of the I-65 and I-565 interchange. This Business Park is home to three new buildings ranging from 108,080 SF - 404,738 SF, and is just minutes from the Mazda Toyota assembly plant currently scheduled for completion in 2021.***

## PROMOTING NORTH ALABAMA

### 2019 New and Expanding Report

While the North Alabama region makes up approximately 16% of the geographic area of the state of Alabama, the region accounted for 40% of Alabama's expanded companies and over 50% of Alabama's jobs and investment from new companies during 2019. Madison County was the leader in new investment with \$1.3 billion, Limestone County was third with \$626.3 million and Morgan County was fourth with \$517.05 million. Limestone County led the state in job announcements with 1,931 while Madison County was second with 1,666.

North Alabama attracted 25 foreign direct invests from 11 countries in 2019 capturing 60% of Alabama's total jobs from FDI with 2,957.

## NAIDA STAFF

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