

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Expanding

Cullman County

River Valley Ingredients located in Hanceville, AL, received a \$9.5 million tax abatement approved by the Cullman County Commission for a new building. The project will bring the worlds largest rendering plant back to full capacity.

Morgan County

Infinity Playground LLC, a manufacturer of playground equipment, will relocate from Falkville to an existing building in Hartselle. The company will invest \$1.3 million on building improvements and manufacturing equipment. This expansion will create 18 jobs.

Updates

Colbert County

DURA Automotive Systems held a grand opening ceremony for its \$75 million 200,000 SF manufacturing facility located in Muscle Shoals, AL. The facility will supply lightweight aluminum electric vehicle battery enclosures to the Mercedes-Benz electric battery assembly plant in Bibb County. This will create 270 jobs.



Contour Airlines has partnered with Northwest AL Regional Airport, located in Muscle Shoals, to add a non-stop commercial flight to Charlotte, NC. This will give Muscle Shoals the opportunity to connect to one of the largest airline hubs in the country.

Education & Training

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has achieved the highest research activity rating in the current, 2021 update of the *Carnegie Classification of Institutes of Higher Education*. UAH is ranked as R1. R1 universities apply the most resources and scientists to research at their institutions. UAH governmental research partners include the U.S. Army, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, the Missile Defense Agency, NASA, the FBI, the National Weather Service and others.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman names **The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)** as one of only eight 'Focus Uni-

versities' in the country. UAH is currently a top provider of interns for Northrop Grumman nationwide. The company boasts a significant number of UAH alumni employees, many of whom have served long tenures at the company. UAH will receive a donation of \$90,000, which will be used to create endowed scholarships, support UAH student organizations, and provide for programs in business, science, technology, engineering and math.



AIDT Military Transition Program (AMTP)

The AIDT Military Transition program is designed to connect military members, veterans, and their spouses, who are transitioning to civilian careers, with training programs that offer in-demand skills and career opportunities. This training is in-person and issued at the AIDT training centers or through their company partners, Skillbridge and Operation Next. Completion of this training may lead to direct hiring with one of AIDT's partnering Alabama companies. For more information visit : <https://www.aidt.edu/aidt-military-transition-program/>

Updates (continued)



Remote Shoals Program, a remote worker relocation initiative of The Shoals EDA, was recently awarded its fourth round of funding increasing the total incentive funding to \$1 Million. Since the program was launched in June 2019, it has seen tremendous growth. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://remoteshoals.com/>.

Jackson County

Jackson County Innovation and Career Academy has made progress on the construction of its new building that is located at the Jackson County Industrial Park.



Lauderdale County

Kith Kitchens held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its \$14 million state-of-the-art cabinet manufacturing facility located in Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Park. This will create 250 new jobs.

Madison County

Huntsville International Airport announced it will now offer a non-stop route through Breeze Airways to Las Vegas beginning in August. Fares will start at \$99 one-way. Passengers will fly on the brand new Airbus A220's. Breeze currently flies non-stop from HSV to Charleston, SC, and Tampa, FL.



FedEx Ground held a ground breaking ceremony on March 3, 2022 for its new \$50 million 337,000 SF distribution center located in Madison. The new center will hire around 120 employees.



Auburn University is expanding its footprint in North Alabama with the acquisition of a new research facility located in Cummings Research Park.



Media

Alabama's exports surged more than 20% in value when compared to 2020, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. Transportation equipment, the state's No.1 export, jumped 25.8%. Overseas shipments of Alabama-made motor vehicles rose by 38.4%, while exports of ships and boats jumped 40% last year.

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