

**Did You Know?**



**OF MANUFACTURING  
IN NORTH ALABAMA**

**11 MILLION ENGINES PRODUCED**

• 2,400 TEAM MEMBERS •

**\$1.7 BILLION INVESTED**

**We thank Toyota Motor Manufacturing for their  
confidence in this region and for helping build  
a stronger North Alabama**



North Alabama Industrial  
Development Association  
[naida.com](http://naida.com) or [naida.com/news/](http://naida.com/news/)  
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— Welcomes —



**VIRGINIA TRANSFORMER CORP**

*The Commitment Company*

— Q2 2026 —

## New Investment

**Virginia Transformer Corporation**, North America's largest U.S.-owned manufacturer of power transformers, has announced plans to build a new 600,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Shoals Research Airpark in **Colbert County** to manufacture power transformers ranging from 2 MVA to 500 MVA.

***"North Alabama isn't simply attracting manufacturers—we're attracting the industries that power America's future."***

The project is expected to create approximately 1,100 high-paying jobs when fully operational. Construction is scheduled to begin immediately, with production anticipated to start in January 2028.

The new campus will feature advanced manufacturing technologies, automated material handling, a dedicated workforce training center, digital production systems, and a Norfolk Southern rail spur to support shipping and logistics.

The Muscle Shoals facility will become Virginia Transformer's seventh North American manufacturing location and will help meet growing demand for critical electrical infrastructure serving utilities, data centers, renewable energy, industrial customers, and commercial markets across the United States and Canada.

### **VIRGINIA TRANSFORMER IS EXPANDING IN MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA, WITH A NEW NORFOLK SOUTHERN-SERVED MANUFACTURING FACILITY**

*Powering the infrastructure behind America's growing energy demand.*



Alabama Manufacturers Continue Reaching the World  
**Alabama exports** totaled \$23.7 billion in 2025, reaching customers in 190 countries worldwide. Despite a sharp 52% decline in exports to China's weakening market, the state's diverse international markets helped offset the impact, resulting in only a 12% overall decline, reinforcing Alabama's position as a globally competitive manufacturing and export economy.

## AIDT Leadership Transition Marks New Chapter

After 33 years leading Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT), Executive Director **Ed Castile** has retired, concluding a career that helped make AIDT one of the nation's most respected workforce development organizations. During his tenure, AIDT trained more than 1 million Alabamians and supported thousands of new and expanding industries across the state. Succeeding Castile is **Kevin Taylor**, a more than 30-year AIDT veteran who most recently served as deputy director. Taylor will continue leading the organization's mission of providing workforce solutions that support Alabama's economic development success.

**Lockheed Martin** has opened its new 88,000-square-foot Missile Assembly Building 5 (MAB-5) in Courtland, expanding the company's capacity to manufacture the Next Generation Interceptor (NGI). The state-of-the-art facility will play a critical role in producing a key component of America's future missile defense strategy as part of the Missile Defense Agency's broader "**Golden Dome for America**" initiative.

A new 125-acre mixed-use sports and entertainment complex is planned near the I-65/Hwy. 20 interchange through a partnership between **Synergy Sports, Limestone County**, and the **City of Decatur**. The multi-million-dollar development will include tournament-quality indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, hotel, retail, residential, and entertainment amenities venues, further strengthening North Alabama's growing reputation as a regional destination for tourism and quality-of-life investments.

## Media

**Huntsville** was named **Livability's #1 Best Place to Live in America for 2026**, topping more than 200 U.S. cities evaluated nationwide, further reinforcing North Alabama's reputation as one of the nation's most desirable places to live, work, and invest.

**WorldAtlas.com** named Mentone, AL among the **Most Relaxing in the South** and also featured it in the top-9 **Off-the-grid Southern Towns to Visit**. **Guntersville, AL** was also listed among the **10 Best Lakeside Towns** in the southern United States.

## Recent Developments

**Cullman's Christkindlmarkt** was recognized as **Event of the Year** by the Alabama Tourism Department, further solidifying its reputation as one of the South's premier holiday destinations. The annual Christmas market attracted approximately 60,000 out-of-state visitors, along with guests from all 50 states, generating a significant tourism and economic impact for Cullman and the North Alabama region.



**FBI's Kinetic Cyber Range**, one of Huntsville's newest high-tech assets, is a replica town that launches cyber investigators into realistic training scenarios. The FBI's 22,000-square-foot Kinetic Cyber Range on Redstone Arsenal features a fully wired replica town complete with homes, a hotel, movie theater, hospital, gas station, power company, and data center, allowing investigators to train in lifelike cybercrime and digital forensics scenarios before entering the field. Since opening in 2025, the facility has trained more than 1,400 FBI personnel and partner agencies, reinforcing Huntsville's growing role as a national center for cybersecurity and advanced technology.

### Powering North Alabama

**TVA & Plus Power** have entered into a long-term agreement for a **200-megawatt / 800-megawatt-hour battery system** through the Crawfish Creek Energy Storage Project in Jackson County. Expected to begin construction in 2028 and enter service by summer 2029, the battery energy storage facility will strengthen grid reliability while supporting continued economic growth across the Tennessee Valley. The project is expected to create 50 to 100 construction jobs and four permanent positions once operational and is part of TVA's broader strategy to add 6,200 MW of new generation capacity to meet growing electricity demand in the Valley.

The Huntsville City Council has approved a **238-acre, 40-megawatt solar facility** near Triana. This project, involving Huntsville Utilities and Madison County, is designed to strengthen energy reliability while helping reduce long-term electricity costs for customers.

## Industry Expansions

### Jackson County

**Google** plans to invest \$1.5 billion during 2026 and 2027 to expand its data center campus in Jackson County, building on the company's original investment announced in 2018 and operations that began in 2019. As part of the expansion, Google has committed to covering 100% of the power and infrastructure costs associated with the project, ensuring no additional costs are passed on to local ratepayers.

### Madison County

**Blue Origin** announced plans to add more than 100 new jobs in Huntsville to support expanded thruster production, bringing the company's Alabama workforce to more than 1,600 employees. The announcement marks remarkable growth since Blue Origin first announced plans to locate in Huntsville with an initial commitment of approximately 300 jobs. Today, the company employs more than 1,600 Alabamians—more than five times its original projection

**L3Harris** Expands Rocket Motor Production in North Alabama  
L3Harris is investing \$25 million to expand its Huntsville-area operations with a new 130,000-square-foot facility dedicated to solid rocket motor production. The addition will increase the company's local footprint to approximately 670,000 square feet across three sites, strengthening America's defense industrial base and helping meet growing demand for missile propulsion systems.

### Morgan County

**GE Appliances** is investing \$28 million to enhance its Decatur manufacturing facility with new automation, infrastructure improvements, and employee amenities. The project includes new thermoforming equipment to further automate production, upgraded lighting and HVAC systems, and construction of a new 2,592-square-foot on-site primary care clinic to support its workforce.

**ITW Sexton** is investing \$6 million to expand its manufacturing operations with new production equipment that will increase manufacturing capacity by approximately 20 percent. The investment also positions the company for future product opportunities.

# Building North Alabama's Next Chapter

—Recent Transformational Investments—

## HADRIAN

\$2.4 Billion  
1,000+ jobs

*Submarine  
Production*



**VIRGINIA TRANSFORMER CORP**  
*The Commitment Company*

600,000SF  
up to 1,100+ jobs

*Production of  
electrical power  
transformers*



1400+ Jobs

*Headquarters  
location*



\$1.5 Billion

*Data Center  
Expansion*



\$6 Billion  
450 jobs

*Next-Gen  
Pharma  
Production*



\$500 million  
80 new jobs

*Connector and  
cable assembly  
expansion*



**First Solar.**

2.2 million SF  
800+ jobs

*3.5 GW of annual  
solar panel  
production*

