



MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

2014-2015

MORGAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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New & Expanding Industry in Morgan County

During fiscal year 2014-2015, October 2014 to September 2015, Morgan County had one new company, 13 non-confidential expansions and 6 confidential expansions or equipment upgrades announced for a total of **\$244,751,833 in capital investment and 631 new jobs**. Due to confidentiality, some jobs and investment figures are not included individually, but the final totals reflect all.

Morgan County is a consistent leader in Alabama in existing industry expansion and is currently home to approximately 150 industries, including 13 Fortune 500 companies and nine Global 500 companies. This year, both investment dollars and new job numbers are up from the previous year illustrating the continued strength and growth of our region's economy.

NEW COMPANIES

RUAG Aerospace USA, Inc.

CITY

Trinity

INVESTMENT

\$ 30,600,000

JOBS

150

TOTAL New Companies:

1

TOTAL Investment & Jobs:

\$ 30,600,000

150

EXPANDING COMPANIES

Air Products & Chemicals
Bunge
Busche Alabama
Daikin America
Diamond Pro Sports
Feralloy Corp.
Hexcel Corporation
JIT Industries
Matthews Industries
Nucor Steel
Pettay Machine
Pro-Fab Machine
Vision Wheel

CITY

Decatur
Decatur
Hartselle
Decatur
Hartselle
Decatur
Decatur
Hartselle
Decatur
Hartselle
Decatur
Decatur
Trinity
Hartselle
Decatur

INVESTMENT

\$ 2,100,000
\$ 11,320,000
\$ 13,000,000
\$ 5,000,000
\$ 1,300,000
\$ 2,800,000
\$ 150,000,000
\$ 262,000
\$ 165,000
\$ 15,460,000
\$ 400,000
\$ 0
\$ 4,750,000

JOBS

0
14
100
0
24
0
25
0
0
0
1
10
18

***TOTAL Expansions:**

19

***TOTAL Investment & Jobs:**

\$ 214,151,833

481

***MORGAN COUNTY TOTALS:**

20

\$ 244,751,833

631

**Due to confidentiality, some jobs and investment figures are not included individually, but the final totals reflect all.*

RUAG Aerospace USA Chooses Morgan County



On July 31, 2015 RUAG Aerospace USA Inc. announced that they would invest \$30.6 million and create up to 150 jobs with a new manufacturing location in Morgan County. The company will lease approximately 130,000 square feet of space inside the United Launch Alliance facility.

RUAG will manufacture and supply to ULA certain carbon fiber structures such as the payload fairing for the larger Atlas V-500 launcher, the interstage adapter for the smaller Atlas V-400, and other structures for ULA's new Vulcan launcher. Construction was scheduled to begin in October 2015 and completed by December 31, 2016.

"We're proud that ULA has selected RUAG as a strategic partner. ULA and RUAG have been working together successfully in the Atlas program for more than a decade. Now we can build on this collaboration with the new Vulcan launcher and our new production site in the U.S.," says Peter Guggenbach, CEO of RUAG Space.

RUAG Aerospace USA Inc. is an indirect subsidiary of RUAG Holding AG, which is headquartered in Berne, Switzerland. This location will be their first U.S. aerospace supplier operation.

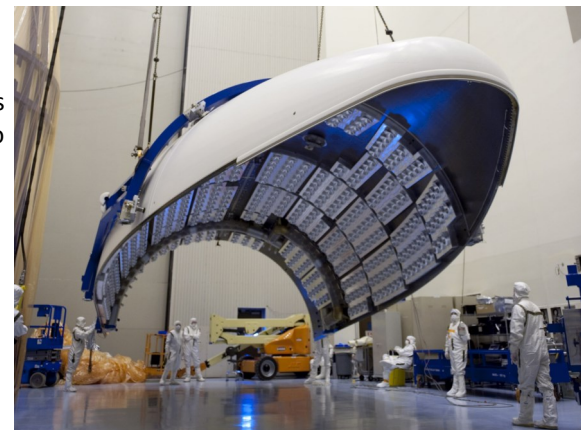


Image Credit: NASA/Kim Shiflett

ULA Celebrates 100th Successful Launch

100
LAUNCHES

CONGRATULATIONS **ULA** ON 100 SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS



MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



America's Ride to Space

ULA celebrated its 100th successful launch on October 2, 2015 out of Cape Canaveral, Florida. The Atlas V rocket was carrying a Morelos-3 satellite for Mexico's Ministry of Communications and Transportation. This launch was ULA's 12th for a non-U.S. government customer and one of three ordered from Mexico's Mexsat constellation.

Earlier in the week, ULA was awarded an \$882 million contract by the Pentagon to continue launching satellites for the U.S. Air Force with the Delta IV and Atlas V rockets, both of which are assembled at the Morgan County facility.

Workforce Development



The Morgan County Economic Development Association worked hard this past year to meet the workforce needs articulated by our members and manufacturers. The North Alabama Workforce Development Alliance (NAWDA) experienced a lot of growth in the last year, bringing our community one step closer to a fully trained and skilled workforce. This group has increased its membership of both plants and contractors, created more structure for committees and sustainability, finalized paperwork to be incorporated as a non-profit, and will soon begin the search for a full time executive director.

The governor's region 2 North Alabama Workforce Development Council covers seven counties and aims to be a regional advisor and implementer of programs producing skilled workers in high demand fields unique to our area. This organization is also close to completing 501c3 status and recently hired a new full time executive director. MCEDA's representation on each of these boards ensures that new and updated programs include the needs of Morgan County's employers.

Through the partnership with the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Coalition that meets once a month was restructured to provide a forum for small and medium sized businesses to voice their workforce concerns to a group composed of secondary, postsecondary, nonprofit, and career services representatives. Now, these employers can be connected to various resources available in our community and the group is available to provide innovative solutions to those issues not previously addressed.

The 8th Grade Endless Opportunities Hands-on Career Fair took place October 22nd at Ingall's Pavilion and saw over 1,500 students participate in activities highlighting local employment opportunities.



Image Credit: Decatur-Morgan Chamber

Existing Industry Visits Pay Off

Synchronist Visits 2015

One of the goals of MCEDA is to visit, face-to-face, with each industry in Morgan County, at least every two years. This year a total of 40 industries were visited from May – September 2015.

These visits assist our office in discovering any problems that our industries may be facing, whether it affects just one company or several. These visits also help us determine if any of our industries are considering expansions and allows us to offer our assistance with those as well.

One issue discovered this year was the lack of internet availability in an area of Decatur. Internet providers were contacted by MCEDA and one of these is planning an expansion of their services to this area of the city so that these industries can have this needed service.



Consul General to India Visits AlphaPet



The Consul General of India Nagesh Singh and board members of the Alabama India Business Partnership toured the AlphaPet facility in Decatur.

Before he was named Consul General of India in Atlanta, Singh was joint secretary/officer on special duty to the vice president of India, director (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and counselor in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York.

He was also the private secretary to the Minister of State for External Affairs for the government of India, under secretary (Pakistan) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and second secretary in Embassy of India in Dakar (Republic of Senegal).

Singh, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1995, received a bachelor's degree in economics from University of Delhi and a master's in economics from the Delhi School of Economics.

Co-op Meet and Greets



Most exciting in MCEDA's workforce development initiative are efforts to recruit and retain young professional talent to our county. Last Spring, MCEDA attended the technical and engineering career fairs at Auburn University and the University of Alabama to provide students with information on how to apply for jobs in Morgan County. This event targeted high demand skills in a population our county is seeking to engage more.



Additionally, through our monthly Industrial Council, plant leadership expressed concerns about recruiting permanent employees from their student interns and co-operatives. This group is historically disengaged from the community and often lives in neighboring counties, commuting in for work.



To combat this trend, MCEDA hosted three cooperative student events to introduce this visiting group to one another and our community. Here, they were given information on community events, attractions, restaurants, and local specials. Feedback from these events has been encouraging and we have been approached by several companies to continue this effort.

Expansions and Growth Good for Morgan County

One of the greatest strengths in Morgan County is the number of existing industries that choose to expand and grow in our community. Bringing new industries to our community is always beneficial, but often our economic boosts come from local industry investments. These investments are through capital projects, new production capabilities, and upgrades to existing machinery. Each of these opportunities brings more money and jobs to Morgan County and often they create an avenue of new revenue into our community. This is not always money being displaced internally. These are national and international companies choosing to put more of their resources into Morgan County. When we look at only one marker of economic growth, be it jobs, tax dollars, capital costs, etc., we shortchange the overall narrative. The monetary expense to an expanding company represents possible job opportunities through contract labor, locally sourced materials, and new jobs from the increased capacity.

The announcement of new jobs means the company is going to be providing more money to our community for healthcare, housing, and education of employees. A company expansion is much more impactful than only a set number of jobs or a set budget. Every announcement and dollar spent by our expanding industries is a vote of confidence for our community's workforce, education system, and quality of life.



Image Credit: Vision Wheel

Magnolia River Expands Downtown



Image Credit: Decatur-Morgan Chamber

Magnolia River moved into their newly renovated offices on Bank Street in Decatur during July 2015. At least \$1 million was invested in the Bank Street location that will be home to approximately 70 employees.

Magnolia River, a woman-owned small business, is a client focused, quality driven company of trusted professionals who provide a wide array of tailored infrastructure and geospatial solutions worldwide. Magnolia River provides expert guidance in solutions that put the needs of the end user up front while saving clients time and money through the streamlining of resources. Areas of expertise include pipeline, energy, inspection, GIS, surveying and mapping, and software products.

Hexcel Continues to Expand

The largest capital investment announced for our 2014-2015 Fiscal Year New & Expanding Industry numbers was Hexcel's January announcement of \$150,000,000 and 20 new jobs in Decatur.



It will be the second major expansion at the company's Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park plant in three years.

Hexcel's Decatur plant produces polyacrylonitrile precursor, or acrylic fiber, most of which is shipped to plants in Salt Lake City and Spain for conversion to carbon fiber.

Approximately two-thirds of the company's revenue comes from the commercial aerospace market, with Airbus and Boeing being its main customers. Other end uses for the fiber made in Decatur include military aircraft, blades for windmills, rocket motors, satellites, and recreational items such as tennis rackets, golf shafts and carbon-frame bicycles.

"The demand for Hexcel's fiber is growing as the newest commercial aircraft are increasing their use of carbon composites," Hexcel spokesman Michael Bacal said. "Decatur has been very supportive of Hexcel's growth in the past, and we look forward to being a valued, growing member of the community in the future."

Hexcel opened its Decatur plant in 1989 and was the first to construct a facility in the Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park.

2015 Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament and Dinner



MCEDA held its 21st Annual Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament on September 22nd at Burningtree Country Club. The Industry Appreciation Dinner took place on September 29th at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion Meeting and Event Center. Approximately 64 golfers participated in the tournament and over 240 guests were in attendance for the dinner.

A special thank you to all our sponsors

for helping make this event possible. We would not be able to have such a successful event without your support. Thank you!

Golf Tournament Sponsors

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Decatur Utilities
HOAR Program Management
Hyosung USA
Peoples Bank of Alabama
Renasant Bank
Thompson Tractor Co.
Terracon Consultants
Toray Fluorofibers
Watermark Property Group, LLC

Hole-In-One Sponsor

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Longest Drive Sponsor

Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.

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Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC

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Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
Mayer Electric Supply
Red Sage Communications, Inc.
Thompson Tractor

Drink Sponsor

Pepsi Cola Decatur

Golf Tournament Winners

First Place Team

Brent Breedlove, Thomas Corum, J. Robert Fite, James Henderson

Second Place Team

Larry Bennich, David Hendrixson, Brent Oaks, Will Pebworth

Third Place Team

John Seymour, Marty Barnett, Wade Weaver, Stewart Roby

Best Effort Team

Jim Melrose, Larry Murphree, Ken Doss, John Gorman

Closest to the Pin

J. Robert Fite

Longest Drive

J. Robert Fite



Anniversaries & Achievements

Temple, Inc. 50 Years

Temple, Inc. is a family owned company located in Decatur, AL since 1965. Blake and Blair Temple currently manage Temple, Inc. and it's employees. Their products are used in utility and traffic installations throughout the South.

BP Decatur 50 Years

Built in 1965, BP Decatur manufactures PTA and its basic raw material, paraxylene (PX) and is the only commercial-scale producer of naphthalene dicarboxylate (NDC). Today, BP Decatur has 444 employees and continues to be a strong partner throughout Morgan County.



Pictured to the left: MCEDA Chairman, Arthur Orr and Victor Alvarado, BP Site Manager at the Industry Appreciation Dinner.

Morgan County Home to Best Small Aerospace Location in AL

In Southern Business and Development's Spring 2015 issue, Decatur is named one of the top three locations for aerospace in the state. Decatur is joined by Andalusia and Dothan in this recognition. As a target industry for the Alabama Department of Commerce, Morgan County's contribution to the aerospace industry is being valued statewide. ULA's presence and the recent announcement of RUAG opening their first site in Alabama within Morgan County serves as an example of the growth of this industry and the promise of more in the future.



Best Small Market Aerospace Locations in Alabama
— SOUTHERN BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

MCEDA
MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Decatur . Hartselle . Priceville
Eva . Somerville . Falkville . Trinity

1-800-927-0807
www.mceda.org

Morgan Ranks High For Manufacturing Growth

Economic indicator website Headlight Data listed that Morgan County ranked above all Alabama counties in the county-by-county report for manufacturing job growth from 2013-14. Morgan ranked 51st overall among 2,746 counties nationally for job growth in the manufacturing sector. The county added 758 manufacturing jobs from 2013 to 2014.

Headlight Data is an online information system designed for economic and workforce development. The system aggregates workforce, economic and demographic data into a central website.

Morgan County Economic Development Association President Jeremy Nails said these results are most likely from job announcements in 2011 and 2012.

"It's always nice to have announcements, but job growth doesn't come until later," Nails said. He said the county's future job growth continues to look promising.



Source: 2015 Headlight, LLC.

2014-2015 MCEDA Membership

We would like to thank our new and renewing members that invest in our organization throughout the year. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

3M Company
AFC, Inc.
Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Alabama Ladder Company Inc.
Alabama Technology Network
Alliance Sand and Aggregates, LLC
AlphaPet Inc.
Ascend Performance Materials
Associated Builders & Contractors of North AL
Automatic SMP
Bank Independent
Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon, Inc.
Barnes, Blackwell, & Co., P.C.
BBVA Compass
Big Heart Pet Brands
Big Spring Environmental, LLC
BP Decatur Site
Brown Recycling & Manufacturing
Building & Earth Sciences, Inc.
Bunge North America, Inc.
Busche
Byrd Maintenance Services, Inc.
Byrd, Smalley & Adams PC
C & L Wood Products, Inc.
Calhoun Community College
City of Decatur
City of Hartselle
Contractor Service & Fabrication, Inc.
Cook's Pest Control, Inc.
Corporate Warehouse Services
Corum's Building & Farm Center
Daikin America, Inc.
DCA Ready Mix
Decatur Career Center
Decatur Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Decatur Corridor Inc.
Decatur Daily
Decatur Morgan Hospital
Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation
Decatur Printing Solutions LLC
Decatur Utilities
Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
Decatur-Morgan County CVB
DHS Systems LLC
Doubletree by Hilton Decatur Riverfront
Dunn Building Company, LLC
Early Services, Inc.

Eddie Preuitt Ford, Inc.
ENERSOLV
Eva Bank
Eyster, Key, Tubb, Roth, Middleton & Adams
Fite Building Company, Inc.
FSI - Fleet Services Inc.
G & J Automatic Screw, Inc.
Gateway Commercial Brokerage, Inc.
General Electric Company
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company, Inc.
Goss Electric, Inc.
Great Southern Engineering
Hagemeyer
Harris, Caddell and Shanks
Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce
Hartselle Utilities
Hexcel Corporation
HOAR Program Management
Horizon Point Consulting, Inc.
Hutto Printing
Hyosung USA, Inc.
ITC-AL, LLC
J & M Signs
Jimmy Smith Jewelers
JIT Industries, Inc.
Joe Wheeler EMC
Kinder Morgan - Decatur River Port
Lakeland Industries, Inc.
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
LiftOne
Limestone Building Group
LittleJohn Engineering Associates
Lynn Layton Chevrolet
Lynn Layton Ford
M & D Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Magic Steel Sales LLC
Matthews Industries, Inc.
Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc.
MICOR Industries, Inc.
Morgan County Commission
Mr. Andy Vest
Mr. I. C. Craig, Jr.
Mr. Lynn Fowler
NAFECO
National Packaging Company, Inc.
NEO Industries (Alabama), Inc.
Nowlin Development Company, Inc.
Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC

Office Interiors by OSCO, Inc.
Parker Real Estate LLC
Peck Funeral Home
Peoples Bank
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
Petroleum Sales, Inc.
PNC Bank
Polyplex USA, LLC
Port of Decatur
Premier System Integrators
Pro-Air Services, Inc.
Pro-Fab Machine
Progress Bank and Trust
Pugh Wright McAnally Inc.
Red Sage Communications Inc.
Regions Bank
Renasant Bank
Rural Morgan County ID Board
S & M E
S.S. Nesbitt & Company, Inc.
Sexton, Incorporated
Southern Synergy
Styrolution America, LLC
Sue-Jac, Inc.
Tanksley Machine and Tool, Inc.
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tennessee Valley Recycling, LLC
Tennessee Valley Training Center
Terracon Consultants
The Boeing Company
Thompson Tractor Company, Inc.
Toray Carbon Fibers America
Toray Fluorofibers (America), Inc.
Town of Eva
Town of Falkville
Town of Priceville
Town of Somerville
Town of Trinity
Trane Rental
Tru-Line Manufacturing
TTL, Inc.
United Launch Alliance
University of Alabama System
Valley Budweiser
Valley Rubber, LLC
Watermark Property Group, LLC
Wayne Farms
Wells Fargo

