



MORGAN COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

2020-2021 Annual Update



25

New and Expanding Companies

416

New Jobs



\$227,792,010

Investment

Port Authority Receives \$3.2 Million for Three New Warehouses



Thanks to Senator Arthur Orr, the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority received over \$3.2 million in grant funding from ADECA and ARC for the construction of three new warehouses at Mallard-Fox Creek Port Terminal. The over \$5 million warehouse complex will increase storage capacity for cottonseed, alloys, automotive grade steel, and aerospace materials. All the warehouses should be completed and in use by the end of 2022.

Cerrowire to Build \$100 Million Facility at Morgan Center Business Park



Cerrowire, LLC announced on November 9th they will be constructing a \$103 million dollar facility and creating approximately 130 jobs at the Morgan Center Business Park in Hartselle. This project was made possible by the tireless efforts of our partners at TVA, Hartselle Utilities, Joe Wheeler EMC, the State of Alabama, the Cooperative District, the City of Hartselle, and the Morgan County Commission. Thank you all!

Using \$20,000 in grant funding from the State of Alabama, the Lynn Fowler Board Room now has a full technology upgrade to keep us competitive in these changing times to include three flatscreens, integrated computer, wireless capability, and video conferencing.

Community Collaborations

Partners throughout the region are strengthening around the mutual goal of much needed population growth. MCEDA is proud to be an active member in these conversations advocating for both our county and our industries. Visioning of the Highway 20 corridor is a key piece to the potential for growth and as such, MCEDA will continue to assist and encourage these plans. Madison, Morgan, and Limestone Counties maintain constant communication and share relevant opportunities to bring more recent graduates into our joint labor shed. MCEDA continues to host our visiting co-op and interns to introduce them to the area and one another. This initiative has grown over the years and we look forward to building out this program. Additionally, the three counties partnered on a regional career fair at Auburn University's Engineering School along with the Best and Brightest Decatur Program. These students were able to hear about the ample jobs in our area and the amazing quality of life available. Local young professional organizations are growing and MCEDA is a partner in both funding and visioning for these groups. MCEDA also worked with Decatur-Morgan Hospital to facilitate vaccine rollout among the manufacturers in Morgan County. Other partnerships of note are the Hartselle Chamber, TVA, North Alabama Works, AIDT and RTP, Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, Calhoun Community College, Limestone Correctional Facility, and Morgan County Community Corrections.



Real Estate Focus

In preparation for potential projects, MCEDA is actively engaged with real estate agents in the area to locate land for possible industrial developments, technology businesses, and potential shared technology spaces. This effort requires some environmental work, appraisals, land negotiations, and quick reactions on available space from both staff and our executive board. We are thankful for their prompt involvement as we navigate this challenging market. The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber's Residential Taskforce is another effort showing great strides in preparing our community for more residents to move in and we are grateful to be a part of this.



State & Local Delegation View ULA Launch

Local and state leaders traveled to Cape Canaveral and viewed an Atlas V launch to support ULA's involvement in the LUCY satellite mission. The satellite will travel to eight primitive Trojan asteroids over a 12-year period.

LinkedIn Campaign

MCEDA is aggressively pursuing technology based companies looking to move to lower cost of living areas. Through the guidance of TVA, MCEDA located and contracted a consultant to lead our efforts via LinkedIn campaign. Ads will appear based on the targeted demographics we identified and require contact information to download a marketing piece on Morgan County. MCEDA will be able to utilize this contact information to engage with smaller technology firms.

The right office space for business growth and employee satisfaction

Location	Office Space Cost
Morgan County	\$16
Denver	\$30
Nashville	\$31
Houston	\$31
Austin	\$37
California	\$38

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