



**MORGAN
COUNTY**

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION



2017-2018 Annual Report

NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRIES IN MORGAN COUNTY

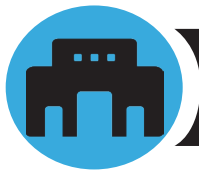
During fiscal year 2017-2018, Morgan County companies announced 17 expansions/equipment upgrades, some which remain confidential, for a total of **\$352,135,000** in capital investment and **408 new jobs**. Additionally, there was one company that announced that they will locate in Morgan County with an investment of **\$3,190,000** and **30 new jobs**.

Morgan County is a consistent leader in Alabama in existing industry expansions and is currently home to approximately 145 industries, including 14 Fortune 500 companies and 7 Global 500 companies.

<u>NEW COMPANIES</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>JOBS</u>
M & J Precision	Decatur	\$ 3,190,000	30
TOTALS FOR New Companies:	1	\$ 3,190,000	30

<u>EXPANDING COMPANIES</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>JOBS</u>
Daikin America	Decatur	\$ 10,000,000	0
Excel Interior Door	Hartselle	\$ 0	18
GE Appliances, a Haier Co.	Decatur	\$115,000,000	255
Hexcel Corp.	Decatur	\$199,400,000	88
iCOOL USA	Hartselle	\$ 1,720,000	8
Neo Industries	Decatur	\$ 4,000,000	0
Nucor Steel	Decatur	\$ 4,000,000	0
Petty Machine Works	Trinity	\$ 200,000	1
Valley Rubber	Falkville	\$ 900,000	10
Valley Rubber	Falkville	\$ 900,000	3
*TOTALS FOR Expansions:	17	\$ 352,135,000	408
*MORGAN COUNTY TOTALS:	18	\$ 355,325,000	438

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



1 NEW COMPANY IN MORGAN COUNTY



17 EXPANSIONS IN MORGAN COUNTY



\$355,325,000 INVESTED IN MORGAN COUNTY



438 NEW JOBS IN MORGAN COUNTY

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RIBBON CUTTINGS

Hexcel Expansion Announcement



Pictured from left are: Jeremy Nails, President and CEO of MCEDA; Senator Arthur Orr, State of Alabama; Greg Canfield, Secretary of Commerce, State of Alabama; Mike Canario, President-Aerospace, Americas at Hexcel Corporation; Tab Bowling, Mayor, City of Decatur; and Ray Long, Chairman, Morgan County Commission.

On December 13, 2017, Hexcel Corporation announced that it would be expanding the Decatur production facility, which was selected by the company to have the first integrated U.S. carbon fiber and PAN production facility. The expansion will create 88 additional jobs and have an investment of \$199.4 million. This project is part of the company's strategic plan to ramp up production of advanced composites to meet increasing demand in the aerospace and industrial markets. Production is expected to begin in 2021.



GE Appliances Expansion



GE Decatur Plant Operations Manager, Mrs. Renee Story, addresses the employees and special guests at the announcement.

On June 29, 2018, GE Appliances in Decatur announced a \$115 million investment to add 40,000 square feet of space to their existing facility and increase production capacity by 25 percent. This investment will add 255 full-time jobs. The existing facility has been in operation since 1977 and the company has made several investments in the facility over the years to improve and update their equipment and processes to increase production volume and to retain their cutting edge in the industry. This latest expansion is expected to be complete by April 1, 2020.



GE APPLIANCES
a Haier company

TIGER LAUNCH & ICOOL RIBBON CUTTINGS



Hartselle City Schools hosted a ribbon cutting for Tiger Launch on September 6. Tiger Launch is a career readiness program that prepares students for careers after graduation. The program partners with local industries to provide students with paid experience and features partnerships with Busche, Cerro Wire, and Sonoco. The partnership will allow the students to attend classes the first half of their school day, and to work within one of the industries for the remaining part of their day.

ICOOL USA, a distributor and manufacturer of HVAC materials, officially opened its doors in Hartselle in January 2018. ICOOL is owned by the Ninhua Group, a professional supplier of refrigeration, ventilation, and air conditioning parts, based in China.



INDUSTRY APPRECIATION

MCEDA held its 24th Annual Industry Appreciation Dinner on September 25th at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion Meeting and Event Center. The Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament took place on October 25th at Burningtrees Country Club. Approximately 200 guests were in attendance for the dinner and 50 golfers participated in the tournament.

A special thank you to all of our sponsors for helping make these events possible. We would not be able to have such successful events without your support.

ANNIVERSARIES

50 Year Anniversary

Petty Machine Works Inc.



Sen. Orr with the Petty Family.

50 Year Anniversary

Air Products & Chemicals

25 Year Anniversary

Lone Wolf Trailer Company

25 Year Anniversary

Panel Craft, LLC



CONGRATULATIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS

FIRST PLACE: Les Blevins, Mack Moncus, Tracy Carpenter

SECOND PLACE: Andy Lasch, Sean Reynolds, Fidel Benitez

THIRD PLACE: Jan Farley, Rodney Blevins, Steve Elliott, Grant McKelvey

BEST EFFORT: Todd Slaten, Walter Mills, Hagler Wiley, Brian Jeffreys

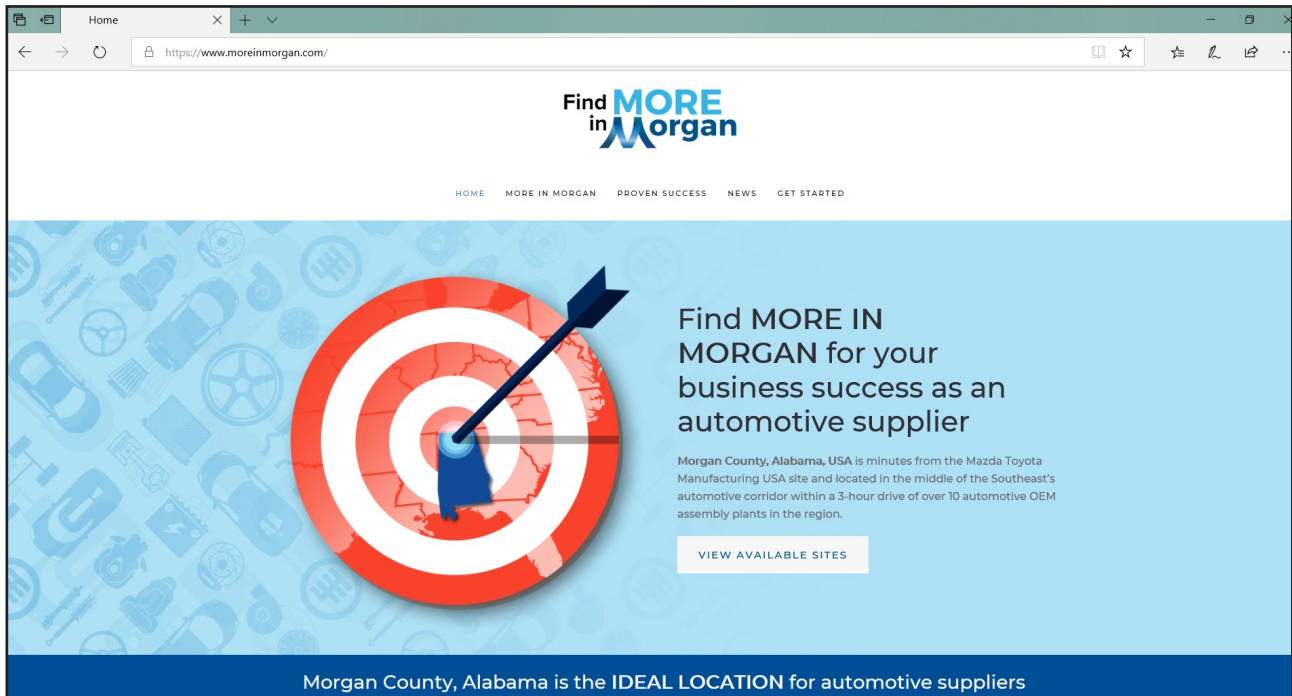
CLOSEST TO THE PIN: Les Blevins

LONGEST DRIVE: Joseph Hill



AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIER WEBSITE LAUNCHED

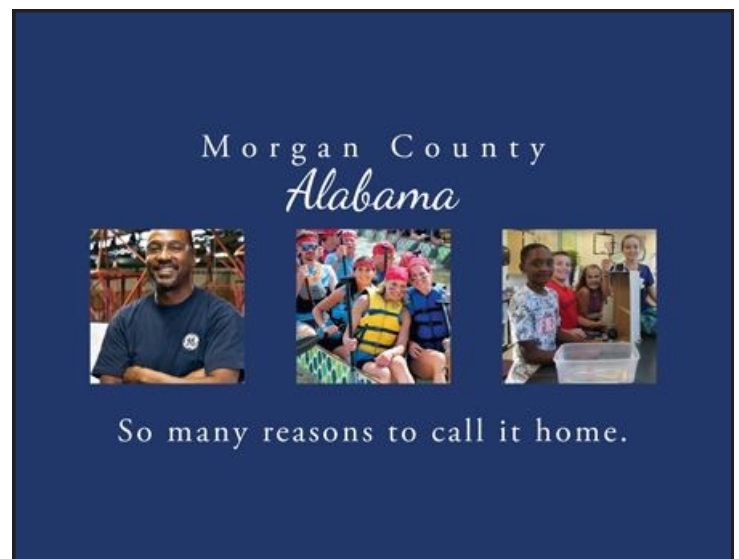
In anticipation of the potential projects resulting from the announcement of the Mazda Toyota facility being constructed in neighboring Limestone County, MCEDA partnered with Red Sage Communications to create a targeted website, to reach out to the suppliers of this new billion dollar facility, and encourage them to locate in Morgan County. This website, [moreinmorgan.com](https://www.moreinmorgan.com), specifically targets automotive suppliers. Through the use of Google Ad Clicks, it will target companies all over the U.S., as well as Japan. A promotional flier will also be sent to automotive companies and site location consultants.



MARKETING AND RESIDENTIAL RECRUITMENT

MCEDA partnered with the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, the Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Decatur-Morgan County Tourism office to produce a first-class color brochure featuring Morgan County, AL.

This brochure contains information on demographics, employment, recreation, entertainment, housing, as well as other information on local amenities and attractions. The piece is a tool that can be used to market our area and for local companies to recruit new employees. We want to thank Andrea Owensby, our former Marketing and Communications employee, for all of her hard work and diligence in seeing this attractive and quality piece through to completion.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TEACHERS on TOUR

August 2nd brought together almost a thousand teachers from all three school systems in Morgan County in the first Teachers on Tour event. Teachers boarded buses to tour one of several plants and hear directly from the plant personnel on their jobs and opportunities. These were not only Career Technical Education teachers, but elementary class teachers, counselors, and administrators.

In order to recruit and retain talent for Morgan County, our schools, students, and parents must be exposed to the opportunities that exist locally. This event allowed every teacher the chance to see firsthand what manufacturing looks like today and the myriad of skills required. In addition to plant tours, every participant toured Calhoun Community College to connect the skills needed with the training available.

Over 25 buses, 50 volunteers, and 15 plants participated to make this event happen. Feedback has been extraordinary and conversations are continuing to take place between plants, Calhoun, and educators to better serve our students.



PROCESS TECHNOLOGY CO-OP PROGRAM

In early 2018, the Industrial Council, a monthly plant managers' meeting hosted by MCEDA, identified a lack of process technology graduates equipped to fill much needed positions in local chemical operations. Through discussions with Calhoun Community College, a Process Technology Co-op Program was developed to meet this need. In under a year, Calhoun developed the framework for the program and recruited 4 companies and 10 students. Today, students attend classes on campus and then apply that information on the plant floor through their co-op jobs. Plants are able to develop talent locally and students are gaining real world experience and earning money simultaneously. Calhoun is currently recruiting additional companies and students for the spring semester.



CAROLYN POOVEY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS with MCEDA



MCEDA would like to congratulate Carolyn Poovey for 30 years of employment with Morgan County EDA/Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority. Carolyn started her career with MCEDA on April 1, 1988. With a background in bookkeeping, she was hired to not only handle the day-to-day financial matters of MCEDA and the Port Authority, but specifically to take care of all financial matters surrounding the construction of Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park. This, in itself, was a very demanding and time consuming part of her job, but she performed with excellence and remains today the main contact for financial matters at our office. We appreciate her commitment to our office and the knowledge that she brings to her job. Now working part-time, she is still a valuable asset to our organization and we hope to have the opportunity to work with her for many years to come.

WORKFORCE & RECRUITMENT

Exciting announcements regarding new and expanding companies become more commonplace monthly in North Alabama. The influx of capital and jobs poise the region for long term growth and a strengthened pipeline. However, there are some challenges to consider as well. MCEDA is active in the recruitment of workers to fill these jobs and has identified three sources from which to recruit.

The criminal justice system is a robust institution ranging from people cited with too many parking violations all the way to those dangerous to a society. Those justice-involved individuals, who are nonviolent and required to maintain employment as a condition of their sentence, are potential employees for Morgan County companies. This group has oversight from a separate authority regarding maintaining clean drug tests and represents an as-yet untapped resource for workers. Partnering with Community Corrections, MCEDA, Decatur-Morgan Chamber of Commerce, and Calhoun Community College utilizes the ACT WorkKeys test to identify and certify those nonviolent offenders ready to enter the workforce. After passing the test, these individuals have a third party assessment to offer a potential employer regarding their aptitude.

Local school systems represent the immediate future of the available workforce. Last year the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) released a report that found nearly 40% of graduating seniors in all three school systems in Morgan County will not go on to a two or four year college. This group presents a real opportunity for the workforce. By working with local school systems, many initiatives are being explored to reach this group and introduce them to local job opportunities. Among those initiatives are an increase in career coaches, more exposure to manufacturing environments, and finding more opportunities to educate parents on the local economy.

Lastly, recruiting more jobs to North Alabama requires all regional partners to also recruit people through a unified message. It is a zero sum gain if people move between county lines considering the workforce's commuter patterns. New residents to neighboring counties is still a win because they increase the talent pool giving credence to the need for regional messaging. Several partner groups are looking for more innovative ways to accomplish this task including the Huntsville Chamber, Limestone Chamber and EDA, and Morgan County Chamber, as well as several nonprofits and a very real sense of partnership is being developed.



2017-2018 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 Technology Network
Alliance Sand and Aggregates, LLC
AlphaPet Inc.
Ascend Performance Materials
Associated Builders & Contractors of North Alabama
Automatic SMP
Bank Independent
Barge Design Solutions Inc.
BBVA Compass
Belt & Bruner, PC
Brand, Blackwell & Company
BRPH
Bunge North America, Inc.
BUSCHE
Byrd Maintenance Services, Inc.
Byrd, Smalley & Adams PC
C & L Wood Products, Inc.
Calhoun Community College
Chenault Photography
Chiptec
City of Decatur
City of Hartselle
Concrete Fiber Solutions
Contractor Service & Fabrication, Inc.
Cook's Pest Control, Inc.
Corporate Warehouse Services
Corum's Building & Farm Center
Daikin America, Inc.
Decatur Career Center
Decatur Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Decatur Corridor Inc.
Decatur Daily
Decatur Industrial Supply
Decatur Morgan Hospital
Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation
Decatur Printing Solutions, LLC
Decatur Utilities
Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
Decatur-Morgan County Tourism
DoubleTree by Hilton-Decatur Riverfront
Dunn Building Company, LLC
Eddie Preuitt Ford, Inc.
ENERSOLV
Entrusted Tees
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.
GE Appliances, a Haier Company
Gemstone Foods, LLC
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company, Inc.
Goss Electric, Inc.

Great Southern Engineering
Harris, Caddell and Shanks
Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce
Hartselle Utilities
HDT Global
Hexcel Corporation
Horizon Point Consulting, Inc.
Hyosung USA, Inc.
Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA LLC
ITC-AL, LLC
ITW Sexton
J & M Signs
Jimmy Smith Jewelers
Joe Wheeler EMC
Kinder Morgan - Decatur River Port
Lakeland Industries, Inc.
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
LiftOne
Limestone Building Group
Lynn Layton Chevrolet
Lynn Layton Ford
M & D Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Magic Steel Sales LLC
Mathews Industries, Inc.
Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc.
M. H. Young & Associates, LLC
MICOR Industries, Inc.
Morgan County Commission
Mr. Lynn Fowler
Mr. Sonny Craig
Ms. Trudy Grisham
NAFECO
National Packaging Company, Inc.
NAWDA
NEO Industries (Alabama), Inc.
Nowlin Development Company, Inc.
Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC
OCI Alabama, LLC
Office Interiors by OSCO, Inc.
Parker Real Estate, LLC
Patrick Industries, Inc.
Peck Funeral Home
Peoples Bank
Pepsi Cola Decatur LLC
Petroleum Sales, Inc.
Petroleum Services Corporation, an
SGS Company
PNC Bank
Polyplex USA, LLC
Port of Decatur/Parker Towing
Premier System Integrators
Pro-Fab Machine of Hartselle, Inc.
Progress Bank and Trust
Pugh Wright McAnally Inc.
Red Sage Communications Inc.
Regions Bank
Renasant Bank
Rural Morgan County IDB
S&ME

S.S. Nesbitt & Company, Inc.
Sexton, Incorporated
Spectrum Enterprise Business Solutions
Strategic Systems, Inc.
Sue-Jac, Inc.
Tanksley Machine and Tool, Inc.
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tennessee Valley Training Center
Terracon Consultants
The Boeing Company
The J.M. Smucker Company
Thompson Tractor Company, Inc.
Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.
Toray Fluorofibers (America), Inc.
Town of Eva
Town of Falkville
Town of Priceville
Town of Somerville
Town of Trinity
Trane/Trane Rental Services
Tru-Line Mfg.
TTL, Inc.
United Launch Alliance
University of Alabama System
Valley Budweiser
Valley Rubber, LLC
Watco Transloading Decatur River Port
Watermark Property Group, LLC

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