

**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Office of the City Manager
Phone: (334)-501-7266

The Berghoff Group to Establish Production Facility in Alabama

HANNOVER, GERMANY AND AUBURN (ALABAMA), USA – The Berghoff Group announced today that the Germany-based company will set up its first U.S. manufacturing location in Auburn, Alabama. The company plans to invest approximately \$30 million and create approximately 100 precision machining jobs in Auburn over the next five years.

U.S. Ambassador to Germany John Emerson announced the deal at the Hannover Messe, the world's largest industrial fair, where the United States is the official Partner Country this year. U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel officially opened the 2016 Hannover Messe on Monday, April 25.

"We welcome middle-sized German companies investing and succeeding in the United States," Emerson said. "The Berghoff Group is a family-owned firm with a strong tradition here in Germany. We are proud to join that tradition with U.S. productivity and innovation – among the many reasons foreign firms choose to invest in the United States."

"With the North America operation we will be able to serve our global customers both from Europe and the U.S.," stated Oliver Bludau, CEO of the Berghoff Group. "Berghoff's principles and processes will create the same quality and value for our customers for products made at our Auburn location. We are very grateful to the State of Alabama and the City of Auburn for the support that our project is receiving."

Starting in 2017, the Berghoff Precision Machining will use its manufacturing expertise to produce parts in Auburn for key customers in the equipment manufacturing, semiconductor, and aerospace industries.

"The Berghoff Group's decision to open a facility in Alabama means 100 well-paying jobs and another world-class company operating in the state," said Alabama's Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield. "The Berghoff Group is widely known as a high-quality manufacturer, and its investment in Alabama is a powerful endorsement of the state as an ideal location for expansion."

The presence of Auburn University and its well-known engineering program played an important role in Berghoff's location decision, according to the company. The Auburn facility will be Berghoff's fifth manufacturing location, joining operations in Germany and Switzerland.

The Berghoff Group is a global leader in the mechanical processing of highly complex workpieces, including five-axis and high-speed machining. The company machines a variety of high-performance metals in the high-mix, low-volume, and high-complexity fields.

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said: "The announcement today is great news for Auburn and this expansion will provide excellent job opportunities for our residents. I am extremely grateful for the support that the project has received from the State of Alabama, and I'm proud to welcome the Berghoff team to Auburn."



Pictured above from left to right: Arndt Siepmann (City of Auburn), Mr. Ulrich Berghoff (The Berghoff Group), and Vinai Thummalapally (U.S. Department of Commerce).

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Thursday, June 25, 2015
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Office of the City Manager
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Italian Casting Company 2a S.p.A. Celebrates Grand Opening of Alabama Operation 2a USA, Inc.

Auburn, Ala.- Italian casting company 2a S.p.A. celebrated the Grand Opening of their Auburn operation 2a USA Inc. today. Several members of the Ilotte family, owners of 2a, traveled from Italy to join local employees and Auburn community leaders for the ribbon cutting event, today. The company is joining the Auburn family following its recent acquisition of Aluminum Technology Schmid North America.

"Today's event marks the successful completion of the acquisition process of the Auburn operation into the family of 2a companies worldwide. We appreciate the work and trust of our employees in the transition process over the last few months", remarked Mr. Carlo Ilotte, President of 2a S.p.A., parent company to 2a USA, Inc. "Our Company has received excellent support from the City of Auburn and the State of Alabama making this investment possible."

The aluminum casting and machining operation was established in 2008 under the name of Aluminum Technology Schmid North America Inc. Through the investment of 2a S.p.A. the operation now is part of a much larger casting company from Turin, Italy. The company is part of a long tradition in castings and tooling industries in Northern Italy. 2a S.p.A.'s history goes back to the 1960s when it made zippers and zipper machinery for the apparel industry which the company is now supplying out of China. The company began to serve the automotive and heavy duty trucking industries with large engine and transmission housing castings in the 1980s.

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said: "Today we celebrate the beginning of a new partnership between Auburn and the 2a company which will retain 95 jobs in Auburn", and added, "We are very grateful for the decision by the Ilotte family to choose Auburn as the location to serve the Northern American market and wish the team success to further grow the business."

In the ceremony an Italian flag and the new 2a USA corporate flag were raised marking the beginning of a new chapter for the local operation. The Honorary Consul of Italy for the State of Alabama, Cav. David M. Gratta, joined the celebration and commented: "Italy and the US are connected by a long history and Alabama hosts several operations from Italian based companies. I congratulate the fine City of Auburn for the partnership with the well-recognized 2a Company from Turin."

Robert Smith from the Alabama Department of Commerce referenced the importance of the industrial cluster of Turin as the birthplace of the Italian automotive industry and added: "With the strength of the automotive sector in Alabama, a connection to Northern Italy is an obvious match and I congratulate the City of Auburn on the investment of another great company in 2a."

For additional questions, please contact 2a USA Inc. at (334) 321-0843 or the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Friday, July 24, 2015
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Office of the City Manager
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Schmidt Automotive USA L.P. to Open Production Facility in Auburn

Auburn, Ala.- German manufacturer Schmidt Maschinenbau GmbH announced that it has selected Auburn, Alabama, as the location for its first U.S. manufacturing operation. Starting in 2016, Schmidt USA will produce engine components including balance shafts and gear wheels in Auburn for Mercedes-Benz and other German car manufacturers.

"Schmidt's decision to open a manufacturing facility in Alabama is great news because it will result in the creation of 50 well-paying jobs and \$17 million in new investment in Auburn," Governor Robert Bentley said. "This project reflects the strength of our expanding auto sector and the capabilities of our workforce. It also shows that Alabama is a perfect home for companies from around the world."

"We feel confident that the U.S. operation will allow us to provide even greater value to our customers," said Herbert Schmidt, president of Schmidt Maschinenbau GmbH. "I am very grateful for the support that our company has received from the State of Alabama and the City of Auburn, making our decision for selecting our new home easy."

For over 30 years, Schmidt has produced precision parts for complex machining applications. Through its in-house expertise as a cutting specialist, Schmidt achieves efficient production of turned parts and economic milling for its customers, with a focus on machining and grinding of forged or casted parts. Intelligent utilization of automation technology and assembly know-how allows Schmidt to provide complete systems for the automotive industry, combining critical precision requirements and high volume parts.

"We are looking to hire motivated and skilled machinist in Auburn who we will invite for extensive training in Germany this fall," Schmidt added. Individuals interested in the company's upcoming machinist openings should contact the workforce development section at the City of Auburn's Economic Development Department at 334-501-7300.

Mayor Bill Ham Jr. said: "The announcement today brings a great company and even more excellent jobs to Auburn. We are extremely grateful for the support that the project has received from the Governor and his administration. Schmidt is a perfect fit for our diversified, high-tech industrial sector and we're excited to welcome them to Auburn."

"Machining engine parts for Mercedes-Benz and other German car manufacturers is probably the most prestigious project in the automotive industry," said Bill Taylor, president of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, which worked closely with the Schmidt team as it considered different locations in the Southeast. "Companies like Schmidt are key to the success of any car manufacturer, and I congratulate Mr. Schmidt for selecting Auburn Alabama."

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Tuesday, June 09, 2015
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Office of the City Manager
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Touchstone Precision Incorporated Celebrates Expansion in Auburn

Auburn, Ala.- Today, Touchstone Precision Incorporated (TPI) celebrated its Grand Opening of the latest expansion of its Auburn Alabama operation. The new production facility of approximately 67,000 square feet will allow the company to better serve its customers in the automotive industry. "We appreciate the trust of our customers allowing us to plan for the future", remarked Mr. Hideki Konishi, President of DAI-ICHI SEIKO, parent company to Touchstone Precision Incorporated, who joined the celebration from Japan. He added, "Our Company is deeply grateful for the support it has received in Auburn Alabama."

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said: "We congratulate the Auburn team of Touchstone Precision for their success and growth here in Alabama", and added, "We are grateful for the leadership and support that they receive from their headquarters in Japan that facilitate their success here in Auburn."

TPI originally opened its doors in Auburn in 2000 with an announcement of 40 jobs. The company currently employs 90 people at its operation in the Auburn Technology Park South. The expansion represents an additional investment of \$9.55 million creating an estimated 27 additional jobs over the next two years. As an injection molding and stamping company, Touchstone Precision specializes in small precision overmolded parts, striving for "perfection in precision." Parent company Dai-ichi Seiko Co. Ltd. was established in Japan in 1963 serving the automotive, electronics connectors and semiconductor industries. The group employs about 6,200 and globally generates sales of over \$400 million.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, July 15, 2014
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

GE Aviation Selects Auburn for High Volume Additive Manufacturing Facility

GE AVIATION NEWS RELEASE

GE Aviation selects Auburn, AL for high volume additive manufacturing facility

- Unique additive manufacturing facility for the jet propulsion industry
- Represents additional \$50M GE investment in Auburn, AL
- Will employ more than 300 at full capacity

AUBURN, AL – July 15, 2015 – GE Aviation, a global leader in jet engine and aircraft system production, today announced plans to bring high volume additive manufacturing to its facility in Auburn, AL. This facility will be the first of its kind to mass produce additive components for the jet propulsion industry.

GE Aviation's David Joyce, President & CEO, Colleen Athans, Vice President & General Manger, Supply Chain and Greg Morris, General Manager, Additive Technologies were joined by Governor Robert Bentley and members of the Alabama delegation at the Farnborough Air Show to celebrate the announcement.

"GE Aviation's decision to launch a 3-D printing initiative at its Auburn plant speaks volumes about the ability of an Alabama workforce to carry out cutting-edge manufacturing. This is tomorrow's technology, and we are proud to say it will be performed right here in Alabama," said Governor Bentley.

GE will invest \$50M in the existing 300,000-square-foot facility to prepare for the additional work. Upon completion, GE investment will total more than \$125M since 2011.

"We are delighted that GE Aviation has chosen Auburn, Alabama for this advanced technology manufacturing operation. We are partners and look forward to many years of a fruitful relationship," said Mayor Bill Ham.

Equipment installation will begin in late 2014 and production of additive components will begin in 2015. By the end of 2015, the plant could have as many as 10 printing machines with the potential to grow to more than 50 printers and occupy a third of the facility at full capacity.

The facility will also continue to manufacture precision, super-alloy machined parts for jet engines.

Since opening in April of 2013, GE has hired more than 70 people. The additional work will accelerate hiring. Based on current demand for its jet engines, GE expects to hire 300 people when the plant is at full ramp-up later this decade.

"This investment is a testament to GE's commitment to this advanced technology. The Auburn team will play a vital role in the next-generation of aircraft engines, and we're proud to be a part of it" said Joe Markiewicz, plant leader at Auburn.

The specific component to be built in the new Auburn facility is a fuel nozzle. More importantly, this component will be on the best-selling LEAP jet engine, being developed by CFM International, a joint company of GE and Snecma (SAFRAN) of France and will mark the first time such a complex

component will be manufactured using additive technology. The LEAP engine, which will enter airline service in 2016, will power the new Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX and COMAC (China) C919 aircraft.

Remarkably, CFM to date has logged total orders and commitments for more than 6,000 LEAP engines. There will be almost 20 fuel nozzles in every LEAP engine produced, thus setting the stage for high, long-term production volume at the Auburn plant. Production will ramp up quickly over the next five years, going from 1,000 fuel nozzles manufactured annually to more than 40,000 by 2020.

"We spent years proving out this technology for a critical component in the heart of the engine, the combustion chamber" said Greg Morris, General Manager, Additive Technologies. "Now we are well positioned to apply this technology to other components in the same harsh environment which could prove to be game changing for future engine programs and designs."

Auburn will have capacity to take on additional component work when new technologies are developed. All development of additive components will remain in Aviation's Additive Technology Center (ATC) in Cincinnati, OH which is also expected to grow over 300% in size in the coming year. The ATC will demonstrate a component's manufacturing readiness before needing to scale for full rate production.

The introduction of additive manufacturing represents a significant technology breakthrough for GE and the jet propulsion industry. Unlike traditional manufacturing methods that mill or cut away from a slab of metal to produce a part, additive manufacturing (also referred to as 3D printing) "grows" parts directly from a CAD file using layers of fine metal powder and an electron beam or laser. The result is complex, fully dense parts without the waste, manufactured in a fraction of the time it would take using other methods.

"GE Aviation's announcement that it will expand its existing cutting-edge aviation research and manufacturing facility in Auburn is great news for Alabama," said Senator Richard Shelby. "I am delighted that Auburn will be at the forefront of advanced technology and look forward to the jobs that the initiative will bring to the state."

"I am excited to hear that GE Aviation has decided to bring high volume additive manufacturing to its facility in Auburn. This ground breaking technology is another step that keeps Alabama at the forefront of the aviation industry and is yet another recognition of our state's world class workforce. It is especially welcome news that GE is partnering with our wonderful local universities and community colleges to foster and develop future careers. I look forward to seeing the growth of GE Aviation and the jet propulsion industry in Auburn," said Senator Jeff Sessions.

To prepare for this new work, GE will partner with local universities and community colleges. The facility will continue its partnership with Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) and Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC) for pre-employment training programs. To develop a pipeline of young talent, GE has worked with Auburn University and Tuskegee University to create internship and co-op opportunities for students.

"We're excited to expand our partnership with a global aviation leader to help enable the potential of additive manufacturing in advanced jet engine production. We look forward to working with GE Aviation experts on the workforce, research and technology requirements for high-volume production of this critical engine component" said Dr. Jay Gogue, President of Auburn University.

GE Aviation has the largest and fastest-growing installed base of jet engines in commercial aviation and a global services network to support them. GE Aviation employs approximately 40,000 people and operates more than 80 facilities around the world. An operating unit of GE, GE Aviation is a world-leading provider of jet engines, components and integrated systems for commercial and military aircraft. GE Aviation has a global service network to support these offerings. For more information, visit us at www.geaviation.com

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For further information, contact:

Kelly Walsh +1.513.243.2830 Kelly.walsh@ge.com Mobile: +1.502.640.5674

Rick Kennedy +1.513.243.3372 Rick.L.Kennedy@ge.com Mobile: +1.513.607.0609

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Wednesday, February 19, 2014
Contact: David D. Dorton
Public Affairs Director
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Touchstone Precision Inc. To Expand, Add Jobs

Auburn, Ala. - Touchstone Precision Inc., located at 239 Technology Parkway announced today the expansion of their existing location. The company anticipates investing approximately \$9,055,944 in its facility at Auburn Technology Park South, including the construction of a 67,000 square foot expansion and new manufacturing equipment. The project will result in the hiring of approximately 27 new employees.

Vice President, Yoshihiro Taniuchi said “We look forward to a longstanding relationship with the City of Auburn and contributing to the city and Alabama’s steady growth.”

Touchstone Precision Inc. established its Auburn operation in 2000 to produce plastic injection and over molded parts for the automotive industry. The facility’s capabilities include in-house stamping and highly automated assembly. The company currently provides 90 Auburn jobs. Touchstone Precision is part of the Japanese Dai-ichi Seiko group serving the automotive, electronics and semiconductor industry and employing over 5,500 globally.

“Good news for Touchstone Precision is good news for Auburn,” said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. “Touchstone has been part of the Auburn community for 14 years, and their latest expansion announcement is yet another success story for local jobs and industry.”

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Monday, February 17, 2014
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: [Office of the City Manager](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7266

SungChang Autotech Office Expansion

Auburn, Ala – SungChang Autotech (SCA) recently held a dedication event for their newly expanded office facilities at their Auburn Technology Park North location. SCA Officials say the new office space will open the next chapter in the company's development in Auburn.

"We appreciate the City of Auburn's support and encouragement as SCA grows," said Dr. Daniel Yu, President of SCA, Inc. "We're proud to be a member of the Auburn family, and for the opportunity to contribute to the local economy and community."

SCA opened their manufacturing facility in Auburn in 2004. Since then they have achieved first tier supplier status with Hyundai and Kia as a supplier of plastic injection molded parts for the automotive industry. SCA provides 390 jobs in Auburn and has invested \$28 million in the local economy. SCA has contributed to local causes including the Veteran's Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships annually at the Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast.

"We're proud to celebrate SCA's success as a local industry providing jobs," said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. "SCA has made a contribution to our economy, and to our community. They're an excellent corporate citizen and a great success story in Auburn."

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Related Information

[SCA, Inc. Website](#)



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Medical college breaks ground in Auburn

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Kristen Oliver | Opelika-Auburn News | Twitter

Posted: Thursday, February 6, 2014 5:11 pm | Updated: 5:16 pm, Thu Feb 6, 2014.

Kristen Oliver | Opelika-Auburn News | Twitter

Officials and supporters of a new medical college at the Auburn Research Park at Auburn University broke ground on the project Thursday.

The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) facility will be a state-of-the-art, four story building with more than 90,000 square feet adjacent to Auburn University's main campus. Osteopathic physicians are licensed across the U.S. to practice the full scope of medicine, according to VCOM. They emphasize the body's ability to heal itself, and therefore focus on disease prevention and nutrition.

VCOM has campuses in Blacksburg, Va. with Virginia Tech and in Spartanburg, S.C. with Wofford College. The Auburn campus will be its third.

The ground-breaking ceremony Thursday was attended by local and state leaders.

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"When you look at what the college of osteopathic medicine is going to bring to us, it'll be an opportunity for students, faculty and the public and private sector in all walks to work collaboratively at Auburn University," said Dr. John Mason, president of Auburn Research and Technology Foundation.

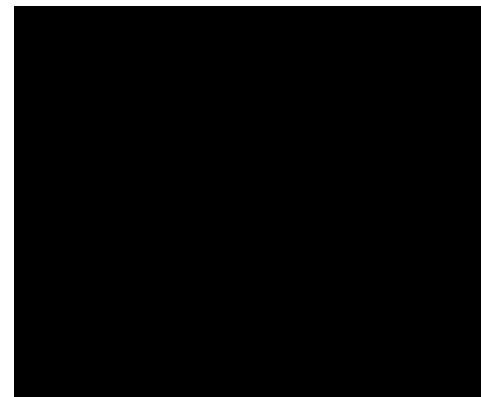
Mason said health science is one of Auburn's many interdisciplinary initiatives, so the entire campus can interact with and benefit from the new college.

Dr. Jay Gogue, president of Auburn University, believes adding another medical college in Alabama will help bring much-needed doctors to the state.

"I'm not an expert at all in health science or in the medical field, but I want you to think about in Alabama



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every day, the number that shocks me, 61 of the 67 counties are without the appropriate number of doctors," Gogue said. "... VCOM offers an enormous

opportunity in the state of Alabama to help our people. As a land-grant university, it's absolutely critical that we have a responsibility to the people in our state and beyond.

"This is a dream of ours that we at Auburn could not do. It's only through a private partner that allows us to provide the kind of interaction and service that we know is important."

The Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, Auburn University and VCOM first signed the collaborative agreement to establish the college in 2012. VCOM is building the facility, which will allow for collaborations with Auburn University programs and Alabama hospitals. The college is scheduled to admit its first class in 2015.

Dr. James Wolfe, president of Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, also spoke Thursday about the possibilities the partnership will create.

"I want to emphasize two major things," Wolfe said. "First, how grateful we are for this association with Auburn and the opportunities it provides for both partners, and secondly, how this branch campus will assist in our mission by meeting the growing need for physicians in Alabama and the surrounding rural and underserved areas."

Wolfe said he looks forward to the economic benefits and healthcare improvements the college can provide the state.

"We will be preparing doctors who will play a major role in satisfying what I personally think to be a moral imperative of this country," Wolfe said. "In my mind, that moral imperative is the provision of healthcare for all of our citizens, no exceptions, no excuses."

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Wednesday, February 05, 2014
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Kemmerich USA L.P. Breaks Ground in Auburn

Auburn, Ala. - Governor Robert Bentley, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. and the Kemmerich Group are proud to announce the location of Kemmerich USA L.P. in Auburn, Alabama. Kemmerich broke ground on a new 60,000 square foot facility on Wednesday, February 5th in Auburn Technology Park West. Governor Bentley and Mayor Ham attended the groundbreaking.

"Automotive manufacturing is one of the targeted sectors for growth in Accelerate Alabama, and Kemmerich's announcement today is proof that the industry is continuing to grow," Governor Robert Bentley said. "The jobs at Kemmerich will provide a good opportunity for the people in Lee County, and I appreciate the company's commitment to Alabama."

Kemmerich plans to invest approximately \$16 million in the new facility, which could provide up to 160 jobs locally within the next five years. The Auburn location is an important milestone in a globalization strategy for Kemmerich, which already employs over 1,000 people in Europe. Kemmerich underwent an intensive site selection process, considering several states in the southeast before selecting Auburn, Alabama for their new US headquarters and manufacturing facility.

"We now understand when people told us that Alabama makes a difference," said Thomas Bergen, CEO of Gebrueder Kemmerich GmbH, thanking the economic development teams of both the State of Alabama and the City of Auburn for their support. "All of us at Kemmerich are looking forward to becoming a part of the Auburn family."

Kemmerich USA LP is a part of the Kemmerich Group, home to the Sauerland region of Germany. Founded in 1897, Kemmerich has a long tradition of metal work and has been an automotive supplier since the 1960s. Today, Kemmerich is a first-tier supplier to the automotive industry. The Auburn plant joins a corporate family that has manufacturing operations in Germany, Spain and the Czech Republic.

The Auburn plant will expand the international network of Kemmerich facilities allowing the company to better serve its customers including BMW, Ford, GM, Mercedes and Volkswagen. The Kemmerich Group is owned by two brothers, Josef and Christoph Kemmerich, the fourth generation to lead the family business. The plant in Auburn is scheduled to start operating in August.

"Kemmerich's announcement today confirms that they have discovered what I've known for years - Auburn is a special place," said Alabama House Speaker Hubbard, Representative for House District 79 in Auburn. "With a tremendous workforce, strong business community, and a prestigious university in our backyard, Auburn provides everything a business desires in a location. I'm proud of the work being done on every level of government from state, to county, to city, to ensure that Alabama and Auburn continue to be as business-friendly as possible. I'm proud to welcome Kemmerich to the Auburn family."

Mayor Bill Ham Jr. commented: "We're proud to welcome Kemmerich to the plains, and I'm confident that their trust and investment in our community will be a win for both Kemmerich and Auburn. I look forward to getting to know our newest corporate citizen and to seeing the fruits of this new partnership in our community as more jobs come to Auburn. My special thanks to Governor Bentley, Speaker Hubbard and Greg Canfield in the Alabama Department of Commerce, as well as to the City of Auburn's Economic Development team for their roles in making this possible."

Contacts:

Media Contact:

David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
City of Auburn
(334) 501-7266
ddorton@auburnalabama.org

Project Contact:

Arndt Siepmann
Director of Industrial Development
City of Auburn
(334) 501-7270
asiepmann@auburnalabama.org

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Related Information

[Kemmerich Website](#)

**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Tuesday, October 01, 2013
Contact: David Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Auburn Automotive Supplier to Build Second Facility

Auburn, Ala. – Seohan Auto USA Corporation has announced plans to build a second manufacturing facility in Auburn, Alabama. The facility will be located in Auburn Technology Park West. Construction of the 110,000 square foot facility starts this week with a completion date in 2014.

In the initial phase of the project Seohan will create approximately 50 additional jobs in Auburn by 2015. The decision by Seohan represents an additional capital investment of an estimated \$16.6 million in the Auburn economy.

Seohan located in Auburn in 2008 and is currently employing approximately 240 people. Seohan supplies front axles and rear carrier assemblies to several car manufacturers in the US. Seohan's second Auburn plant will focus on machining metal components for the automotive industry.

Chang-Dug Moon, President of Seohan Auto USA Corporation commented, "The expansion will allow us to serve our new customer Mitsubishi Motors. The success of our business is due in part to Auburn's strong workforce and the support of the City of Auburn and the State of Alabama."

"Almost exactly five years ago we celebrated the grand opening of Seohan's first facility in Auburn. We knew that Seohan would be an excellent partner to Auburn. Companies have many options to locate their investments, and we are proud and grateful that Seohan continues to trust in Auburn," said Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. "I would like to congratulate Seohan officials on the announcement of their expansion plans."

"Seohan realizes what many of us have known about Auburn for years, it is a great place to live, a great place to raise a family, and a great place to do business," said Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn). "Auburn has a tremendous group of city, county, and state officials as well as an incredibly hard working economic development team. Working together we have seen great success in recruiting new businesses as well as expanding existing ones. I expect this job growth and economic success will continue for years to come."

Citizens interested in applying for job opportunities with the company are encouraged to contact the HR Manager of Seohan Auto USA Corporation, Mrs. Aimee Sikes at asikesseohan@gmail.com

For further information, please contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

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**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Thursday, June 27, 2013
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Donghee America to Invest, Create Jobs in Auburn

Auburn, AL - Governor Robert Bentley announced on June 27th that Donghee America, Inc., plans to invest \$48 Million in Auburn, creating 80 jobs.

Donghee America will manufacture fuel tanks to serve the nearby automotive industry. The company's highly-sophisticated manufacturing process will require Donghee America to employ a large number of engineers. Hiring of key members of the operation has started.

"Alabama has a strong workforce and a positive business climate, and that helps us recruit well-paying jobs for the people of this state," Governor Bentley said. "Alabama's role in the automotive industry continues to grow. We are working with state and local economic developers for more good opportunities, and this announcement is a great example of what a strong economic development program can accomplish. We welcome Donghee America to Auburn and look forward to working with company leaders to help them succeed and even expand their business here in Alabama."

Donghee America will locate at the corner of Innovation Drive and Riley Street in the Auburn Technology Park West. Site preparation for the project began in early March. Construction of the 117,000 square foot manufacturing facility is scheduled to be complete later this year.

The commitment by Donghee America will further strengthen the region's growing automotive industry.

"I am truly convinced that Alabama is the most business-friendly state in the nation, and Donghee America's decision to invest in Auburn proves just that," stated Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn). "Our pro-business, pro-private sector focus has paid off and is exemplified by Alabama's steady growth in the automobile industry. I've always known that Auburn was a great place for business, and I expect, thanks to the hard work of the city, county and our great citizens, that more companies will choose to call Auburn home."

"Once again, we're thankful for our great relationship with Governor Bentley and the State of Alabama and all that they do to benefit Alabama's economy," Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said. "Donghee America is a great fit for Auburn's industrial community and will bring innovation and high-tech jobs to our economy."

"The NAFTA location in Alabama will allow Donghee America to better serve our customers, Hyundai and Kia," said Chairman D.H. Lee of Donghee Group. "I appreciate the support from the State of Alabama under the leadership of Governor Bentley. We are looking forward to a prosperous and successful partnership between the State of Alabama and the Donghee Group. Soon, we will be able to say, 'Made in Alabama!'"

Earlier this year, Donghee America completed the site selection process by executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Auburn.

"Our special gratitude goes out to Mayor Ham and the leadership at the City of Auburn. The general conditions we find in the City of Auburn will allow for the necessary support that Donghee America will require moving forward with our state-of-the-art manufacturing operation," said Gyung-Soo Kim, President of Donghee America.

The Governor's Press Office can be reached at (334) 242-7150

###

Related Information

[Governor Bentley's Press Release](#)

**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Monday, April 29, 2013
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director of Public Affairs
Department: **Economic Development**
Phone: (334)-501-7266

GE Aviation open doors at Auburn, AL plant

Auburn, AL - David Joyce, President & CEO, GE Aviation will be joined by Governor Robert Bentley to celebrate the grand opening of GE Aviation's Auburn, AL facility. The 300,000 sq. ft. facility will manufacture high pressure turbine airfoils. GE Aviation plans to hire 50 employees by the end of 2013, and 300 - 400 employees once reaching full capacity. The facility represents a \$75M investment in the city of Auburn.

Please see the attached [media advisory](#) from GE Aviation for full information.

###

Related Information

[GE Aviation Media Advisory](#)

**For Immediate Release**

Date Of Release: Thursday, December 06, 2012
Contact: David D. Dorton
Director, Public Affairs
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7266

Borbet Prepares for Future Growth

Auburn, Ala. – German-based Borbet Group, a leading European manufacturer of light metal alloy wheels for the automobile industry, recently announced the appointment of Ulf M. Kranz as its new President and CEO. Borbet will also hire a new Chief Operating Officer, Dieter Schmidt.

“We’re proud to get Mr. Ulf M. Kranz in our Auburn operation. Both Mr. Kranz and Mr. Schmidt have the experience to continue to grow the business and to improve the operation capabilities of Borbet in the USA,” said Borbet owner Peter Wilhelm Borbet.

Borbet took over the aluminum wheels plant in Auburn Technology Park North in spring of 2008. Since then, the company has steadily increased production, with a total volume of 1.3 million wheels in 2012. With demand still above capacity, production plans call for at least 1.4 million wheels in 2013.

Founded in 1881 in Germany, the family-run business has been producing light-alloy wheels since 1997. Borbet is recognized throughout the world as a specialist in design excellence and high quality in aluminum wheels.

“With employment of approximately 375, up from around 200 in 2008, Borbet has become one of Auburn’s top manufacturing employers,” said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. “They’re a valuable asset to Auburn and I look forward to their continued growth.”

For more information, contact Economic Development at 501-7270.

###



NEWS RELEASE

MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc., One MasterBrand Cabinets Drive, Jasper, IN 47546

Contact: Corporate Communications (812) 481-5644

Thursday, October 18, 2012

MASTERBRAND CABINETS TO HOST JOB FAIR; **ADDING APPROXIMATELY 125 POSITIONS**

Jasper, IN —MasterBrand Cabinets (MBCI) announced today that it is hosting a job fair to assist in hiring approximately 125 production positions needed at its Auburn, AL facility during the next three months. A small number of management and technical positions may also be added.

The job fair is Saturday, October 20th, from 8 am to 4 pm. The job fair is hosted at the company's facility at 300 Webster Road, Auburn, AL.

Applicants should be prepared to complete an application, an on-site interview, and a pre-employment drug screen. Job offers may be extended at the fair if applicants meet the necessary qualifications. Please do not bring children as child care is not provided.

The Auburn facility currently has a first shift that begins at 7 am and a small third shift will be added that starts at 10:30 pm to meet production requirements. Production positions start at \$11.00 per hour plus benefits.

For more information regarding the management and technical positions, please visit the MBCI website at <http://www.masterbrand.com/careers>.

* * *

Office of the Governor

ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor



STATE OF ALABAMA

Press Office

December 18, 2012

Governor Bentley Welcomes RAPA Automotive Supplier to Lee County

AUBURN – Governor Robert Bentley and automotive supplier RAPA (Rausch & Pausch LP) on Tuesday announced the company's plans to locate a U.S. headquarters and production facility in Auburn.

Company officials anticipate creating 105 new jobs in Auburn over the next five years with \$18 million in planned capital investment. Construction of the facility in Auburn Technology Park West is already underway, with production scheduled to start in fall of 2013.

Alabama's strategic business development plan is called Accelerate Alabama, which targets various industries for growth.

"The automotive industry is one of the business sectors we focus on in Accelerate Alabama, and RAPA fits right in with our long-term economic development plans for Alabama," Governor Bentley said. "RAPA will soon know what so many other national and international corporate leaders have learned: there's no better place to do business than Alabama."

Rausch & Pausch LP is a subsidiary of Rausch & Pausch GmbH, located in North Bavaria, Germany. RAPA produces high-precision automobile parts, including solenoid valves and control blocks. Founded in the 1920s, the family-owned company is in its fourth generation of leadership by the Pausch family. RAPA will supply Chrysler as well as German transmission manufacturer ZF.

"We are now an Auburn company," Chairman of the Board Horst Pausch, Sr., said of the Auburn location. "Over time, we want to build a company in Auburn that is independent from Germany, with its own research and development capabilities and its own set of North America-based customers."

Company officials said they are grateful for the support from Alabama Department of Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield and his department, which allowed the company to realize the foreign venture.

"The pro-business climate in Alabama was one of the key reasons why we came here. Locally, one could not ask for a better economic development program," said Dr. Roman Pausch, President of Rausch & Pausch GmbH. "Auburn combines excellent location factors with programs tailored to help small and medium-sized businesses overcome any possible hurdle."

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., hailed the local economic news, saying, "We are proud to bring in another dynamic company that will provide Auburn citizens with well-paid jobs, while strengthening our local manufacturing base. It's exciting that such a unique product, to be sold internationally, will be manufactured in Auburn."

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For contact information, visit: <http://www.governor.alabama.gov>

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, December 18, 2012
Contact: David D. Dorton
Public Affairs Director
Department: [Economic Development](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7266

RAPA Automotive Supplier Locates in Auburn

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###

Related Information

[Governor Bentley's Press Release](#)



For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Thursday, May 03, 2012
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: [Economic Development](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7270

Arkal Automotive USA Hosts Grand Opening in Auburn

Auburn, Ala. – ARKAL Automotive USA, Inc. hosted a grand opening for its brand new 32,000 square foot facility on Thursday, May 3 in Auburn Technology Park West. This is the first U.S. manufacturing operation for the Israeli-based company. ARKAL will produce durable, life-long plastic parts by utilizing advanced thermoplastic technologies and the latest developments in high-quality materials.

“In the first phase of this project, ARKAL will invest approximately \$7.2 million and create 25 jobs and we anticipate even more growth in the future,” said Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., City of Auburn.

ARKAL Automotive, a division of ARKAL Plastic Products, was founded in 1997 and since then, ARKAL has developed a worldwide reputation for design excellence and utilizing state-of-the-art engineering. ARKAL Automotive headquarters is located in the Northern part of Israel.

“This is the 22nd manufacturing facility of a foreign-based company currently operating in Auburn. It’s a great testimony to the excellent business atmosphere and living conditions here in Auburn that continues to draw foreign business,” said Mayor Ham.

“The opportunity to further expand in Auburn places us in an ideal location to serve our customers who have operations in the Southern U.S. including some of the leading OEM’s and Tier 1 suppliers,” said Ram Drori, General Manager of ARKAL Automotive Plastics. “We’re grateful for the support we have received from the City of Auburn and its Industrial Development Board,” he added.

For more information, please see ARKAL’s web page at www.arkal-automotive.com or contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Office at (334) 501-7270.

###



For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, May 08, 2012
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Economic Development Director
Department: [Economic Development](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7270

Weidmann Plastics North America Expands, Adds Jobs in Auburn

Auburn, AL - WEIDMANN PLASTICS NORTH AMERICA broke ground on the expansion of its production facility in Auburn, Alabama during an official ceremony on Tuesday, May 8th.

Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. was joined by representatives of **WICOR** Americas Inc. based in Hanover, New Hampshire, and **WICOR** Holding based in Rapperswil, Switzerland to celebrate the ground breaking.

"This day marks an important milestone in the long standing partnership between WEIDMANN and the City of Auburn. Over the next two years, the expansion will trigger an investment estimated at \$15 million creating approximately 40 additional jobs in Auburn. We congratulate the company on their continued success in Auburn," said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham.

The Auburn facility is part of **WEIDMANN** Plastics Technology which engineers and produces sophisticated multi-component, injection-molded plastics applications in the automotive, industrial and medical industries. The company opened an operation in Auburn in 2003 and expanded its facility once before in 2006. The current expansion will add approximately 48,750 square feet to the facility where the construction is expected to be completed this fall.

"The expanded capacity is needed to host additional business awarded in the automotive industry," Thomas Freiburghaus, Executive Vice President Plastics Technology, Automotive & Industrial Division, commented. "We're proud of the achievements of our Alabama team and look forward to many more good years in Auburn," Mr. Freiburghaus added.

WEIDMANN PLASTICS NORTH AMERICA is part of the Swiss based **WICOR** (**Weidmann International Corporation**) Group – a leading supplier of engineered products and services for the electrical and plastics technology business segments.

For additional information on the company, please contact www.weidmann-plastics.com

For employment opportunities, please contact (334) 826-4004.

For more information on the City of Auburn Economic Development Program, please contact Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

###

Office of the Governor

ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor



STATE OF ALABAMA

Press Office

March 20, 2012

SiO2 Medical Products to Create 300 High-Tech Jobs in Auburn

AUBURN – Governor Robert Bentley on Tuesday announced SiO2 Medical Products is investing \$90 million in a new facility in Auburn, adding up to 300 new jobs in Lee County.

Construction of the SiO2 Medical Products plant is currently underway at Auburn Technology Park West. SiO2 Medical Products will supply the medical industry with innovative products for the biological drugs industry. The company's products and related processes are protected by 37 patents worldwide.

SiO2's roots in Auburn date back to 1994.

"An essential part of creating new jobs is encouraging our existing companies to further their investments in this state," Governor Bentley said. "SiO2 Medical Products is creating new opportunities in the form of additional well-paying jobs, and we appreciate their continued commitment to Alabama."

"We offer a highly-skilled workforce with an excellent work ethic," Governor Bentley added. "And we look forward to even more announcements from SiO2 in the future."

Alabama Development Office Director Greg Canfield thanked the company for the confidence it has shown in the City of Auburn.

"This project has tremendous growth opportunities, and I anticipate future expansions of this company in Auburn," Canfield said. "This is incredible news for the area."

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., thanked the company for the jobs created in Auburn.

"We are extremely proud that the company found in Auburn a place to assemble and grow a team that would lead to today's announcement," Mayor Ham said. "We are fortunate to have such a pioneering company creating jobs in Auburn. And we wouldn't be here today without the support of Governor Bentley, House Speaker Mike Hubbard, and Retirement Systems of Alabama Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Bronner."

"If the recession has taught us anything, it is that we must keep innovating and keep finding ways to create jobs," Speaker Hubbard said. "I'm proud of the teamwork it took to make this project a reality and to bring so many high-tech, high-paying jobs to Lee County."

The Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) has partnered with SiO2 Medical Products to bring this project to fruition.

"The RSA has worked on this project for two years, and the financing closed last week," Dr. Bronner said. "We are very excited about the opportunity to partner with SiO2 Medical Products' Chairman Bobby Abrams, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Auburn Economic Development Director Phillip Dunlap, Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard, and Governor Robert Bentley to expand the plant in Auburn."

"The Company will revolutionize the delivery of certain medicines to patients on a global scale," Dr. Bronner added. "The patented product represents a major breakthrough in healthcare. This project is one that will be recognized worldwide as the type of company Alabama needs to continue to recruit with its high-paying and stable jobs."

Dr. Robert Pangborn, director of Research & Development for SiO2 Medical Products, said the announcement is the result of many years of hard work.

"Our research team developed the processes and the products for SiO2 Medical Products, and everyone in our organization can be extremely proud of this achievement," Dr. Pangborn said. "The team effort between the RSA, the State of Alabama, and the City of Auburn, was instrumental in realizing the project here in Auburn. Together with Dr. Bronner and Mayor Ham, SiO2 Medical Products is looking forward to a bright future here in Auburn, Alabama."

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For contact information, visit: <http://www.governor.alabama.gov>

Biotech facility to bring 300 jobs to Auburn

By: [DONATHAN PRATER](#) | Opelika-Auburn News

Published: March 20, 2012

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The city of Auburn received a dose of positive economic news in the form of 300 high-tech jobs coming to city, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley announced Tuesday.

Medical supplier SiO2 Medical Products, is investing \$90 million in the construction of its plant currently under way at Auburn Technology Park West, said Phillip Dunlap, the city's director of economic development.

Dunlap said site work on SiO2's 50-acre campus began in January. The plant will be approximately 165,000-square feet.

Dunlap said the city has been working closely with SiO2 Chairman Robert W. Abrams, Retirement Systems of Alabama RSA CEO David Bronner and others on for a considerable time.

SiO2 Medical Products, which will be based in Auburn, will supply the medical industry with products for the biomedical industry, Dunlap said.

"This is a significant project for us in the biotech field in that it has tremendous implications in the delivery of certain medicines," Dunlap said.

SiO2's ties to the Auburn community date back to 1994 when Capitol Vial Inc. located in the area, Dunlap said.

"Mr. Abrams became affiliated with the city at that time and over the years has felt that this has been a good place to invest ... and this is another opportunity for his family of companies," Dunlap said.

Bentley echoed Dunlap.

"An essential part of creating new jobs is encouraging our existing companies to further their investments in this state," Bentley said. "SiO2 Medical Products is creating new opportunities in the form of additional well-paying jobs, and we appreciate their continued commitment to Alabama."

Dunlap said that plant construction should be completed by early 2013 with some hiring to begin around that time.

An official groundbreaking will take place on April 9 at Auburn Technology Park West at which Gov. Bentley, Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham and Bronner will be present, Dunlap said.



For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: [Economic Development](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7270

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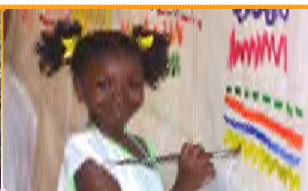
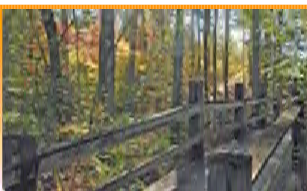
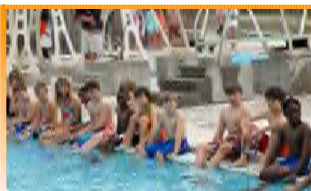
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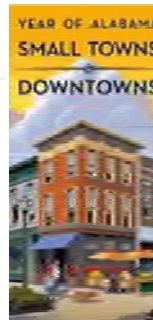
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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Thursday, November 18, 2010

Department: Economic Development

Printer Friendly Version



GE Aviation Announces Plans To Build Plant in Auburn

Auburn, Ala. - The City of Auburn welcomes GE Aviation, its newest corporate citizen, to Auburn. GE Aviation has announced it will locate a new environmental coatings facility to the West Technology Park in Auburn. "It's a proud day for Auburn," said Mayor Bill Ham. "In the last few years, regardless of national economic conditions, Auburn has received recognition as a great place to live, work and do business. We've seen local industry expand and new industry join our community," Mayor Ham added.

GE Aviation, a GE operating unit based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a world-leading supplier of commercial and military engines and components as well as integrated digital, electric power, and mechanical systems for aircraft. GE is expected to employ 300 to 400 people when the facility is at a full production capacity later this decade.

"This is a great win for citizens of Auburn, Lee County and the state of Alabama," said State Representative Mike Hubbard. He continued, "GE Aviation's decision to locate to Auburn brings more jobs to the East Alabama area, as we continue to outperform a sluggish national economy. This location is a testament to the strength of Alabama and to the quality of the greater Auburn community".

Construction of the new 200,000 square-foot facility, expected to open in 2012, will begin in 2011. The facility will enhance components for the GE/Rolls-Royce F136 jet engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program (the Department of Defense's focal point for defining affordable next generation strike aircraft weapon systems for the Navy, Air Force, and Marines). Initial F136 production will start in 2013.

"We would like to thank Governor Bob Riley, Representative Mike Hubbard, Dr. Jay Gogue and Auburn University for what they bring to the community. Thanks also to Auburn's Economic Development team for their tireless work to keep Auburn's economy strong," Mayor Ham said.

For more information, please refer to the [press release](#) issued by Governor Bob Riley.

###



For more information, please contact us at webit@auburnalabama.org

City of Auburn | 144 Tichenor Ave | Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: (334) 501-7260 | Fax: (334) 501-7289





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GE Aviation plant coming to Auburn

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By Chris Anthony | Staff Writer
Published: November 16, 2010

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GE Aviation is bringing a new environmental coatings facility to Auburn – and with that, possibly 300 to 400 new jobs.

buzz up

Gov. Bob Riley announced Tuesday that GE had chosen Auburn for its facility, which will work on components for the GE/Rolls-Royce F136 jet engine, part of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program.

"This is a big win for us," Auburn City Manager Charlie Duggan said. "It's a testament to the quality of our community, our excellent school system, the quality of life people enjoy here and the quality of our labor force."

GE Aviation is a supplier of "commercial and military engines and components as well as integrated digital, electric power, and mechanical systems for aircraft," according to a release from Riley's office.

The facility will be housed at Auburn Technology Park West, located on Beehive Road north of Interstate 85.

Construction will begin in 2011, with the facility opening in 2012.

Duggan said GE Aviation's new plant would be a big addition to the technology park, which opened in 2008.

"At this point, I doubt we'll get a bigger name than GE, but we're open for business for anyone who wants to come here," he said.

GE spokesman Rick Kennedy said the facility would start out small, employing 25 to 30 people, before ramping up production – and employment – as demand for the F136 engine increases over the decade.

Production of the F136, a brand new engine, will begin in 2013.

Kennedy said the environmental coatings are used to protect the material in the engine, which can reach temperatures of more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.



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"The material could melt without these coatings," he said. "It's a very proprietary part of our industry."

And as [environmental coating technology progresses](#), [Duggan](#) said there would likely be collaboration between the company and [Alabama universities](#), including [Auburn University](#).

[Kennedy](#) agreed that cooperation between the [university](#) and the facility was a big drawing point for [GE](#).

"The collaboration with the [university](#) over time will be very important," he said.

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Auburn selected for new General Electric plant

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BREAKING NEWS

GE selects Auburn for new engine coatings plant

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Posted: Nov 16, 2010 12:57 PM CST
Updated: Nov 16, 2010 1:51 PM CST

AUBURN -- GE Aviation has selected Auburn as the site for a new environmental coatings facility for advanced military jet engine components, Governor Bob Riley announced on Tuesday.

GE Aviation selected Auburn based on the area's access to a strong technical workforce, local government support and employee training opportunities, and close proximity to Auburn University.

At a ceremony last August at the Alabama State Capitol with Governor Riley and GE Aviation President and CEO David Joyce, GE Aviation announced its intention to open a new coatings facility in Alabama.

"The high-tech jobs that are coming to Alabama because of GE Aviation will have a significant impact. Alabama continues to be a prime location for jobs in aviation and aerospace because prestigious international companies like GE recognize we have a talented and skilled workforce, outstanding workforce training programs, and communities that partner with companies to help them be successful," said Governor Riley.

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham said, "It's a proud day for Auburn. In the last few years, regardless of national economic conditions, Auburn has received recognition as a great place to live, work and do business. We've seen local industry expand and new industry join our community. An announcement like this can't be made without thanks to Governor Riley and Representative Hubbard, thanks to Dr. Gogue and Auburn University for what they bring to the community, and thanks to Auburn's Economic Development team for their tireless work to keep Auburn's economy strong."

Representative Mike Hubbard of Auburn said, "This is a great win for citizens of Auburn, Lee County and the state of Alabama. GE Aviation's decision to locate in Auburn brings more jobs to the East Alabama area, as we continue to outperform a sluggish national economy. This location is a testament to the strength of Alabama and to the quality of the greater Auburn community."

GE Aviation, a GE operating unit based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a world-leading supplier of commercial and military engines and components as well as integrated digital, electric power, and mechanical systems for aircraft.

Construction of the new 200,000 square-foot facility will begin in 2011 at Auburn Technology Park West, and is expected to open in the 2012 timeframe.

The facility will enhance components for the GE/Rolls-Royce F136 jet engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program. Initial F136 production will start in 2013.



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GE is expected to employ 300 to 400 people when the engine ramps up to full rate production later this decade.

The environmental coatings facility will enhance components for the GE Rolls-Royce F136 jet engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program.

The JSF F-35, the largest military procurement in U.S. history, is a multi-role aircraft to replace numerous tactical fighter aircraft flying today. Potential F-35 production for the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marines and international customers is expected to reach more than 5,000 aircraft over 30 years.

The GE/Rolls-Royce F136 engine, currently in development test and preparing for flight test next year, is among the most advanced jet engines ever created. Environmental coatings are key to enhancing the performance and durability of its components. They protect the base metal on components from harsh thermal and corrosive environments.

The F136 engine is a product of the best technology from two world-leading propulsion companies, GE Aviation and Rolls-Royce. F136 engine development is being led at GE Aviation in Evendale, Ohio (Cincinnati suburb), and at Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Due to anticipated F136 production volume, GE's need for developing environmental coatings and associated manufacturing processes continues to grow. The technology requires a highly skilled and flexible workforce, and it will create meaningful collaborative opportunities for Alabama's university system.

GE Aviation generated revenues of \$18.7 billion in 2009. The company also has the largest and fastest-growing installed base of jet engines in commercial aviation and a global services network to support them.

GE Aviation employs approximately 38,000 employees and operates more than 50 manufacturing and service facilities around the world. The company invests \$1 billion annually in jet propulsion R&D programs. This long tradition of commitment to new technology has helped GE establish its leadership position in the industry with a proud list of "firsts" in both the military and commercial jet propulsion, tracing back to 1942 with America's first jet engine.

Created by Thomas Edison, GE (NYSE: GE) is a diversified infrastructure, finance and media company taking on the world's toughest challenges. From aircraft engines and power generation to financial services, health care solutions, and television programming, GE operates in more than 100 countries and employs about 300,000 people worldwide.

INFORMATION SOURCE: Governor's Press Office

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GE
Aviation

GE Aviation Breaks Ground on Auburn Facility

The facility seeks to employ 300 to 400 people later this decade

AUBURN, Alabama – October 31, 2011 – GE Aviation, a global leader in jet engine and aircraft systems production, today hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of its new jet engine components factory in Auburn.

Governor Robert Bentley, U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. and Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard were among those who joined GE Aviation executives at the event.

The 300,000 square-foot advanced manufacturing plant will produce precision, super-alloy machined parts for GE jet engines that will power future commercial and military aircraft, and also to support the vast fleet of GE jet engines already in service.

Following the start of construction today, the facility is on schedule to open in late 2012. Limited hiring will begin next year. Additional hiring is slated for 2013 as production begins to ramp up. GE Aviation's goal is to employ 300 to 400 people when the plant is at full ramp-up later this decade.

GE Aviation selected Auburn in large part because of its access to a skilled workforce and its proximity to Alabama's university system. The facility is expected to develop collaborative relationships with Auburn University and Tuskegee University. This week, GE Aviation will begin recruiting at both Alabama campuses.

"GE Aviation has enjoyed significant success establishing 'Centers of Excellence' that focus on specific aviation components and processes within our supply chain," said Colleen Athans, vice president and general manager of GE Aviation. "We are very excited to add Auburn to our network of manufacturing operations."

The new Alabama facility underscores the growth of GE Aviation, where deliveries of commercial engines for GE and its partner companies will grow in 2012, approaching record levels. Over the next several years, GE Aviation will invest hundreds of millions of dollars across its more than 30 operations in the U.S., including two new manufacturing operations in neighboring Mississippi. GE Aviation employs approximately 17,000 workers in manufacturing in the U.S.

In 2011, deliveries of commercial engines produced by GE Aviation, CFM International (50/50 joint company of GE and Snecma of France), and the Engine Alliance (50/50 joint company of GE and Pratt & Whitney) will grow more than 10 percent over 2010 deliveries of 2,000 engines.

Combined with GE's military engines, total engine deliveries in 2011 for GE Aviation and its partner companies are expected to reach 3,200 engines.

The Auburn groundbreaking ceremony comes on the heels of the Supplier Symposium that GE Aviation hosted in Tuscaloosa last month, attended by more than 100 Alabama companies. The symposium was held to expand GE's aerospace supplier network throughout Alabama.

In addition to supporting GE's anticipated growth in new engines, advanced components manufactured in Auburn will also support the enormous base of GE engines already in operational service. For example, GE and its partner companies currently operate more than 18,000 commercial jet engines in airline service, and by 2015, it is expected to grow to 24,000 engines.

GE (NYSE: GE) is an advanced technology, services and finance company taking on the world's toughest challenges. GE employs over 1,400 people in Alabama. GE Aviation, a GE operating unit based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a world-leading provider of commercial and military jet engines and components as well as integrated digital, electric power, and mechanical systems for aircraft.

[GE Aviation](#) employs approximately 37,000 employees and operates more than 50 manufacturing and service facilities around the world. The company invests \$1 billion annually in jet propulsion R&D programs. This long tradition of commitment to new technology has helped GE establish its leadership position in the industry with a proud list of "firsts" in both the military and commercial jet propulsion, tracing back to 1942 with America's first jet engine.

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GE Aviation, an operating unit of GE (NYSE: GE), is a world-leading provider of jet and turboprop engines, components and integrated systems for commercial, military, business and general aviation aircraft. GE Aviation has a global service network to support these offerings. For more information, visit us at www.ge.com/aviation. Learn more about GE Business & General Aviation at <http://facebook.com/GEGBA>. Follow GE Aviation on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GEAviation> and YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/GEAviation>.

###

For further information, contact:

Rick Kennedy	513.243.3372; rick.l.kennedy@ge.com ; Mobile: 513.607.0609
Deb Case	513.243.0094; deborah.case@ge.com ; Mobile: 513.418.1644
Stephanie Epner	202.326.1806; stephanie.epner@edelman.com



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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, March 22, 2011
 Contact: Phillip Dunlap
 Director, Economic Development
 Department: Economic Development
 Phone: (334)-501-7270

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HONAM Petrochemical Corporation Selects Auburn

Auburn, Ala. – City of Auburn Mayor Bill Ham announced at the March 22nd City Council Meeting that HONAM Petrochemical Corporation will establish a manufacturing facility for polypropylene resin materials in Auburn, Alabama. The corporation's first U.S. manufacturing operation was formed under the name of HPM Alabama Corporation and will occupy an existing facility at 765 West Veterans Boulevard in the Auburn Technology Park North. HONAM Petrochemical Corporation is part of the Lotte Group. With annual revenue of approximately \$50 billion U.S. dollars and 35,000 employees, the Lotte Group is the 5th largest conglomerate in Korea. HPM Alabama Corporation will initially invest an estimated \$9.25 million dollars and create 30 jobs by next year. HPM will also collaborate with Auburn University for R&D projects.

Governor Bentley stated, "I want to congratulate Auburn and East Alabama for recruiting the U.S. subsidiary of HONAM Petrochemical Company. I wish the company great success with its new operation in Auburn. Knowing the global reach of this company and the exceptional business conditions in Alabama, I truly believe that this is the beginning of a great partnership."

"Recruiting such a renowned company is a great win for Auburn," said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham. "For this technology-driven company to occupy an existing facility is particularly rewarding. I would like to especially thank Governor Bentley and the team from the Alabama Development Office who assisted the company in finding a home in Alabama," Ham added.

HPM Alabama Corporation is a manufacturer of a base material used by injection molding companies. This will add a manufacturing process to the regional economy that currently does not exist. As a result, it will further Auburn's industrial development strategy to maintain a locally diversified industrial base.

Mr. Young Jin Lee, Director of the Performance Material Unit of HONAM Petrochemical Corporation complimented Auburn as a business location and university town with an exceptional quality of life. "It's the ideal location for us to establish such a technology-driven production operation. We are grateful for the support from the State, City and Auburn University. Our existing and future customers in all of North America will be supplied from this facility."

HPM Corporation will produce injection moldable fiber reinforced thermoplastics in Auburn. This new material is protected by numerous patents in South Korea and the U.S., and provides various opportunities to replace metal components. Director Lee explained, "The material shows exceptional stiffness and excellent impact resistance due to the network structure of long fibers. Applications for this material are found in the electronics, construction, automotive and industrial industries, replacing metals and engineered plastics".

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Office at (334) 501-7270.



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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, September 06, 2011
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7272

Automotive Supplier Seung Chang Airtech, Inc. Expands Operations; 200 Jobs To Be Added Auburn, Ala. – Seung Chang Airtech, Inc. (SCA) is announcing the completion of a 95,000 plus square-foot expansion to its manufacturing operation in Auburn Technology Park North. The 214,800 square-foot large manufacturing facility will help the company respond to the growing demand for its products.

“Our decision to expand our production is the result of additional business and increased demand from our clients KMMG in West Point, Georgia, and HMMA in Montgomery, Alabama. Our Auburn manufacturing facility strategically places us in a position to grow our company, and provide additional jobs in the community,” said Dr. Daniel Yu, CEO of SCA.

SCA is also announcing another major project coming to Auburn. SCA has already begun occupying a 20,000 square-foot facility in the Auburn Industrial Park where it will produce vibration and noise dampening materials used in the automotive, industrial, and construction industries. With these two projects SCA will have invested \$16.8 million and will have created approximately 200 additional jobs in Auburn.

“We are excited about the announcement by SCA,” Mayor Bill Ham said. “SCA became a corporate citizen to Auburn in 2004, creating 40 jobs. In the near future, the company will employ 400 workers. I want to congratulate the leadership of the company and its employees for this achievement,” Ham added.

The Auburn automotive parts manufacturer serves the automotive industry with black plastic injection molding parts and the assembly of heater and blower modules.

For more information on SCA, Inc., contact the City of Auburn’s Economic Development Department at 501-7270. For individuals interested in employment opportunities at SCA, please contact the SCA Human Resources Department by phone at (334) 887-6720 Ext:114 or by email at pdismukes@scaalabama.com.

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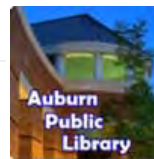
Economic Development



For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: [Economic Development](#)
Phone: (334)-501-7272

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Israeli Company Selects Auburn

Auburn, Ala. - Arkal Plastic Products will establish a manufacturing facility to produce plastic parts for the automotive industry in Auburn, Alabama. The Israeli-based company will open its first U.S. manufacturing operation under the name of ARKAL Automotive USA, Inc. in a brand new 32,000 square foot facility in Auburn Technology Park West with future expansion plans of up to 110,000 square feet. The building is currently under construction and anticipated for completion in December 2011. In the first phase of this project, the new company location will result in an investment of approximately \$7.2 million and 25 jobs.

"For the last two years ARKAL has collaborated in a partnership with another Auburn-based company. Business at both companies apparently is strong enough to enable both companies to expand beyond that partnership," explained Mayor Bill Ham. "It is a good day for Auburn when a technology-driven company is planning to invest and hire people in our community," Ham added.

ARKAL Automotive, a division of ARKAL Plastic Products, was founded in 1997 and since then, ARKAL has developed a worldwide reputation for design excellence, utilizing state-of-the-art engineering, advanced thermoplastic technologies, and the latest developments in high-quality materials to produce affordable, durable long-life products. ARKAL Automotive headquarters is located in the Northern part of Israel and is the second company from Israel to start a manufacturing operation in Auburn.

Mr. Ram Drori, General Manager of ARKAL Automotive Plastic complimented Auburn's economic development program. "The pro-business attitude and valuable input provided by the economic development team made the difference over other locations that we evaluated. We are looking for a long and good relationship with Auburn that will support our strategy of growing in this area."

With the formation of a division strictly focused on the automotive industry, ARKAL is building a network of manufacturing operations which will allow it to service its globally operating customers. While a Canadian facility is mainly serving the automotive cluster in Michigan and Ontario, the Auburn facility will focus on supplying car manufacturers in and around Alabama. The company is also operating in Germany, Spain, Poland and China.

For more information, please see ARKAL's web page at www.arkal-automotive.com or contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Office at (334) 501-7270.

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City of Auburn | 144 Tichenor Ave | Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: (334) 501-7260 | Fax: (334) 501-7289



For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, April 06, 2010
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334) -501-7298

Auburn Auto Supplier to Create 100 New Jobs

AUBURN, AL – Pyongsan America, Inc. is expanding its operations in Auburn. The Korean auto supplier has outgrown its facility after operating for more than eight years in Auburn Technology Park North. The company is currently located at 760 West Veterans Boulevard, and plans to lease a second manufacturing facility at 229 Enterprise Drive in Auburn. Pyongsan plans to invest \$5 million in the expansion, and create 100 additional jobs over the next two years.

“We are thrilled to be able offer Pyongsan a solution for growth in Auburn”, said Mayor Bill Ham. “Under the leadership of Chairman Bang Soo Lee, and President Francis Yoon, Pyongsan has grown to employ over 100 employees, and plans to double the number of jobs over the next few years. This is great news for our citizens and evidence of the success of our strategy to build a diverse industrial base in Auburn,” the mayor added.

Pyongsan America is a supplier with a current focus on air-conditioning and heater core pipe assemblies. With nine facilities globally, Pyongsan has successfully pursued the globalization of its business, and is now serving customers in Asia, North America, and Europe. “Through the quality of our work we have gained the trust of our customers, including Korean, US, and European car manufacturers. We are very appreciative to our customers that have provided those growth opportunities to us. The Auburn facility has been a great success for our company and we could not think of a better place to invest further,” said Pyongsan President Francis Yoon.

For a complete company profile on Pyongsan Group and Pyongsan America Inc., please visit www.pyongsanusa.com, or www.pyongsan.co.kr.

For more information, call the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Monday, June 07, 2010
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-3000

Auburn Company Expands Facilities and Workforce

Auburn, Ala. – Health Information Designs, INC. (HID) has announced plans to expand its facility and workforce at its company headquarters in Auburn. HID provides healthcare informatics services in 23 states, touching more than \$96 billion of the national Medicaid budget. The expansion is currently providing 35 new jobs and nearly \$2 million in increased payroll.

The company's headquarters, located in the Auburn Industrial Park, will be enhanced through a \$500,000 investment. "I am excited about the growth Health Information Designs is experiencing and even more excited about the jobs that will result in this company's expansion," said Mayor Bill Ham. "Companies like HID add to the diversity of our local industry and we will value their corporate citizenship for years to come," Ham added.

HID was recently awarded a \$23 million contract to perform pharmacy services for the State of Texas Medicaid program over seven years. "We believe it was the quality of our services backed by our talented team of Pharmacists, Nurses, Pharmacy Techs, Statisticians, Programmers and IT support personnel that made HID the winner for this contract," said Bill Mixon, HID Chief Executive Officer.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at 334-501-7270.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Thursday, June 03, 2010
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: Office of the City Manager
Phone: (334) -501-7270

German Based Auto Supplier To Locate In Auburn

Auburn, Ala. - German based auto supplier, Tube Technology Systems AG has announced plans to locate its North American manufacturing operations in Auburn, Alabama. Tube Technology Systems Inc. will produce brake tubes for the automotive industry. The company was awarded a contract from Volkswagen as a supplier for the first vehicle that will be manufactured in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The initial investment by Tube Technology Systems Inc. is approximately \$1.4 million. Eight jobs will be created in Auburn in the first stage of this project.

"We are starting this investment as a partnership with Aluminum Technology Schmid that has been in operation in Auburn for several years. The support that we received from the State of Alabama, the City of Auburn and the conditions that we found in the Auburn Technology Park West are truly excellent," stated Marian Hamprecht, CEO of Tube Technology Systems Inc.

Mayor Bill Ham Jr commented: "We continue to grow our industrial base through value added technology based companies like Tube Technology Systems. Our strategy is paying off. We are delighted to welcome Tube Technology Systems as a Volkswagen supplier to our industrial family."

The Director of the Alabama Development Office, Neal Wade, complimented the City of Auburn, the Industrial Development Board and staff at the Alabama Development Office for their joint work in bringing the Volkswagen supplier to Alabama. "It demonstrates a wonderful working partnership between the State and the Auburn community," said Wade.

The Alabama Development Office had sourced the project in Germany; working with the Industrial Development of the City of Auburn the State assisted the company in the search for the right local partner. "The IDB suggested the company Aluminum Technology Schmid and in the eyes of the two decision makers it quickly was seen as a great match," stated Claudia Zimmermann, Director European Business Development at the Alabama Development Office.

The City Council approved a tax abatement for Aluminum Technology Schmid at the June 1st City Council Meeting as a result of its expansion, which includes approximately a \$2.5 million investment and the creation of 16 additional jobs.

For further questions, please contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, August 10, 2010
Contact: Phillip Dunlap
Director, Economic Development
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7270

Motorcycle Manufacturer To Locate To Auburn

AUBURN, Ala. – The Viper Motorcycle Company is announcing its plans to begin manufacturing motorcycles in Auburn, Alabama. The company will move its operation from Minnesota to Auburn as soon as possible with full production beginning in 2011. A brand new facility in Auburn Technology Park West will become the new headquarters and production facility for Viper Motorcycle Company. Company officials expect the creation of 100 new jobs in Auburn over the next two years.

Viper Motorcycle Company, a subsidiary of Viper Powersports, produces high performance, super cruiser motorcycles for bike enthusiasts. The motorcycles are produced with over 80% of proprietary parts designed and manufactured by Viper. "The Auburn facility and community support places us in a position to achieve our annual goal of 2000 motorcycles and 2000 aftermarket engines within 5 years," added John Silseth, CEO of Viper Powersports.

Company officials say the timing is ideal to relocate their operation and that Auburn has all of the assets for the Company to expand and satisfy the increased demand. "The market is ready for a new original equipment manufacturer to be a leader in the super cruiser niche," said Terry Nesbitt, President of Viper Motorcycle Company.

Andrew Broadley, Technical Director of Viper Motorcycle Company sees the proximity to Auburn University as an opportunity to integrate a wealth of knowledge and expertise from students and faculty. "The ability to develop a relationship with such a high-quality University is of particular interest on the technical side, which will allow us to expand our research and development capability towards new projects," said Broadley. The company sees unique opportunities for creative students to be involved in design and engineering.

State Representative Mike Hubbard and Governor Bob Riley assisted in recruiting the Company to Alabama. Both had seen the product prior to its official launch.

Governor Bob Riley congratulated Auburn on this exciting economic development news. "This is a great win for Auburn and really for our entire state. We're proud to welcome this latest economic development success to Alabama and look forward to a long and productive relationship with Viper. I know I'm definitely looking forward to seeing those bikes that will be built in Alabama out on the road," stated Governor Bob Riley.

State Representative Mike Hubbard welcomed the new company to Auburn. "The company was attracted to the area because of its excellent conditions including skilled personnel, a diverse manufacturing base, Auburn University, and the local quality of life," Hubbard said.

Auburn City officials say the announcement is good news for the local economy. "We are proud to bring in another dynamic company that will provide Auburn citizens with good paying jobs, while diversifying our local manufacturing base," Mayor Bill Ham said. "It's exciting that such a unique product, to be sold across the country and

abroad, will be manufactured in Auburn.”

For more information please contact Viper Motorsport Company at (952) 938-2481 or the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at (334) 501-7270.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Tuesday, June 01, 2010
Contact: Arndt Siepmann
Industrial Development Recruiter
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7270

Auburn Auto Supplier Expands, Adds Jobs

Auburn, Ala. – CNJ Tech, Inc. is announcing plans to expand its operations in the Auburn Industrial Park. The expansion will result in an additional investment of \$5.5 million, and approximately 25 jobs. CNJ Tech, Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of Korean-based Yangjung Industry Co., Ltd. which serves the automotive industry by producing precision parts, including brake discs and knuckles.

“We are excited about this latest announcement and what it means for our local economy as a whole,” Mayor Bill Ham said. “Our job market is very healthy. Auburn industries added 275 jobs to the local economy just in the last quarter alone, and the City has experienced job growth for the past three consecutive quarters,” Ham added.

CNJ Tech, Inc. became a corporate citizen of Auburn in Spring 2008 with an initial capital investment of \$15.66 million and approximately 25 jobs. Since then, the auto supplier has grown as a corporate citizen of Auburn.

“Our decision to expand our production is the result of increased demand from Korean automakers KIA in West Point, Georgia, and Hyundai in Montgomery, Alabama. Our Auburn manufacturing facility strategically places us in a position to grow our company, and provide additional jobs,” said Mr. Gyu Yong Chung, President and CEO of CNJ Tech, Inc.

At the June 1st City Council Meeting, CNJ Tech, Inc. will also be considered for a tax abatement as a result of its plans to expand its facility and workforce.

For more information on CNJ Tech, Inc., contact the City of Auburn’s Economic Development Department at 501-7270.

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For Immediate Release

Date Of Release: Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Contact: Arndt Siepmann
Industrial Development Recruiter
Department: Economic Development
Phone: (334)-501-7270

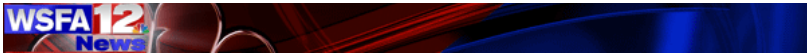
Hoerbiger Automotive Comfort Systems Expands Operations

Auburn, Ala. – HOERBIGER Automotive Comfort Systems is announcing that it will be expanding its facility in Auburn by 9,600 square feet to allow for an increased manufacturing capacity. The company anticipates the creation of 25 additional jobs through this expansion.

The automotive parts supplier produces hydraulic systems for the power closure segments, primarily drive systems for convertible roofs and power lift gates. The German-based manufacturer is making the expansion as a result of a significant increase in demand of its product portfolio. HOERBIGER supplies hydraulic systems for the power liftgate for five vehicles from General Motors. HOERBIGER is investing \$500,000 in its on-site expansion.

When HOERBIGER Automotive Comfort Systems opened its first North American facility in Auburn in 2002, the company initially supplied BMW in Spartanburg, SC. This is the second expansion of HOERBIGER in Auburn. The company currently employs 125 people. HOERBIGER Automotive Comfort Systems is part of the HOERBIGER Group with annual sales at approximately \$1.02 billion and about 6,500 employees globally.

HOERBIGER Automotive Comfort Systems is recommending that motivated individuals with a great work ethic to call 334-704-0677 or 334-741-4211 to apply for a position. For additional information, please contact City of Auburn's Economic Development at 334-501-7270.



AU to break ground on new MRI research center

Posted: Feb 01, 2010 2:59 PM CST

Updated: Feb 01, 2010 2:59 PM CST

AUBURN, AL - Auburn University and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will host a groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$21 million facility that will house Auburn University's new Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, Research Center. The ceremony is set for Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. and will take place in the Auburn Research Park on Devall Drive.



The event, which is free and open to the public, will include remarks by Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Auburn Board of Trustees member Charles McCrary, as well as Jeffrey Bundy, vice president, MRI, for Siemens Healthcare.

"The MRI Research Center is a prime example of how state funds can be invested and state educational institutions collaborate with the private sector to develop a world-class research center to advance science and technology, improving quality of life in the global community and promoting economic development for the state of Alabama," Dean of Engineering Larry Benefield said.

Construction of the 45,000-square-foot facility began in January with a projected completion date in September. It is the second building in the research park. The architect for the project is Perkins +Will, and the construction manager is Brasfield & Gorrie LLC.

Magnetic resonance imaging uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of organs, tissues and the skeletal system. The heart of the MRI machine is a large magnet whose strength is measured in Tesla, or T, and named for electrical engineer and inventor Nikola Tesla.

According to Gogue, the master research agreement signed last year with Siemens will advance Auburn University to the forefront of biomedical engineering and has the potential to bring lifesaving technologies to the citizens of Alabama and the region. Examples of current and potential areas of MRI-related research include brain function, metabolic imaging and pharmaceuticals, as well research into diabetes and heart disease.

The first floor of the new building will house a Siemens Verio open-bore 3T MRI scanner that will be used for both clinical and research use, as well as the nation's first actively shielded whole-body 7T MRI. There are only 28 7T scanners worldwide. Auburn's 7T will be one of two located in the southeastern U.S. and will be the only actively shielded unit in the U.S. This unit will be used solely for research. Thomas Denney, Auburn University professor of electrical and computer engineering, has been named director of the new research center.

"Our vision is to become a leading center for MRI research in the southern United States with emphasis on orthopedic imaging and research, coil design and functional MRI," Denney said. "These areas represent an intersection between the needs of the MRI research community, particularly in 7T imaging, and existing expertise and strengths of Auburn University." Functional MRI is a specialized type of scan used to provide an image of how the brain functions.

East Alabama Medical Center will lease approximately 3,000 square feet, including the 3T scanner for a clinical imaging operation. This floor will also house offices and waiting rooms, as well as a research laboratory.

The second floor of the building will contain a coil laboratory, office space for faculty and staff associated with the MRI Research Center and a distance-learning-enabled classroom for MRI training. It will also house office space for The Orthopedic Clinic, as well as the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Lab, or USAARL, which will collaborate with Auburn on research on head and spinal injuries.

The Army will land a Blackhawk helicopter at the site at noon, which will be open for viewing by the public until 3:30 p.m.

Third-floor tenants include EAMC Rehab Works and Auburn's Department of Kinesiology, as well as The Auburn Spine and Neurosurgery Center (the offices of Auburn University Adjunct professor and Neurosurgeon W. Lee Warren, MD), and Warren Innovation, Inc. Dr. Warren will be involved with the MRI Research Center and the distance-learning classroom."

Auburn Neurosurgery and Warren Innovations Inc., which will also make use of the distance-learning classroom.

"This effort supports Alabama's goal of becoming known as a key state in advancing the biomedical frontier," McCrary said. "It sets an example and establishes a precedent on which programs between Auburn University and other institutions, both private and public, can build to strengthen Alabama's economy and future. We fully expect to see additional partnerships and collaborations grow from these initial efforts."