



Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association Industry Leader



April 2016

GM Boost Labor Market In Maury County

SPRING HILL, TN (January) GM announced that the 2017 Acadia will be produced in Spring Hill in Maury County, TN.

The Acadia will be the second vehicle to be produced at Spring Hill, according to the company. The Chevrolet Equinox began production in Spring Hill in September 2012 and in August 2014 GM announced that the Cadillac XT5 would be built in Spring Hill. Production plans have not been announced for the Cadillac XT5.

Increased production at the Spring Hill plant will be a boon to surrounding cities, the closest Columbia, TN.

The new production line will "provide new opportunities for business growth in our city and new employment opportunity for our residents," according to Mayor Dickey.

Dickey continued that "the new jobs and job opportunities following from the announcement by GM to expand auto assembly operations will provide high quality jobs for Columbia citizens that pay higher wages and stronger benefits, well above average and allowing more of our citizens to enhance their quality of life. We appreciate our neighbor GM and look forward to many more years working with the company." ♦

Source: City of Columbia

Making Ideas A Reality In Nashville

NASHVILLE, TN (February) Arciplex officials announced the company will invest \$500,000 to expand operations at its Nashville facility. The company will create 35 new jobs in Davidson County.

Arciplex is an innovative company that focuses on creativity and ideas of entrepreneurs and inventors. With this expansion, the company plans to be better equipped to meet customer needs and to expand into new

markets. The company specializes in making creative ideas a reality. Arciplex takes ideas from entrepreneurs and inventors from all over the world and designs, engineers and produces these ideas into a finished product that can be sold in stores.

♦ Source: TN ECD

Hohenwald Gets Sole Support

HOHENWALD, TN (February) Sole Supports' new facility will create at least 54 jobs and will invest \$500,000 in Lewis County.

The foot orthotics manufacturer already has a factory in Hickman County and has been located in Tennessee since its inception in 1992.

Dr. Edward Glaser founded Sole Supports in 1992 after several years of working as a podiatrist. Originally from New York, he moved to Tennessee because of a cross-country bike ride taken when he was a teenager. "He found that Tennessee had the best people. They would invite him into their home," plant manager Keith Copley said. "He really fell in love with Tennessee, and that's why he founded the company here."

Sole Supports creates custom foot supports, or orthotics, that focus on raising the arch of the foot, which prevents and corrects a variety of issues.

Molds of an individual's feet are taken at their doctor's office, then sent to Sole Supports, where they are made into custom supports.

The new facility in Hohenwald will have manufacturing positions as well as office support and professional relations.

Mayor Bill Webb said it has been about 15 years since a facility of Sole Supports' size opened in the area. Local interest is high. "There have already been 240

applications," he said. Mayor Webb also stated "Sole Supports has already attracted two other companies to the area — a manufacturer of medical braces and a distribution center. They'll work in conjunction with Sole Supports." ♦ Source: Daily Herald



COO Ken Burks at Sole Supports' new facility in Hohenwald. (Daily Herald Staff photo by Susan Thurman)

Spirits Maker Is Pouring \$140 Million Into Facility

LYNCHBURG, TN (February) Brown-Forman Corporation officials announced expansion plans for the Jack Daniel Distillery.

The \$140 million investment will be used to construct two new barrelhouses as well as modify and expand the existing bottling facility to provide additional bottling and shipping capacity to meet future demand. As a result, 30 new jobs will be created in Moore County.

The Jack Daniel Distillery underwent a separate expansion less than three years ago which included the addition of stills, barrel warehouses and related infrastructure. That project represented an investment of \$103 million and the creation of 94 jobs.



In addition to the new barrelhouses and bottling facility modifications, the current expansion will also involve renovations to the Visitor Center to support increased tourism and enhance the visitor experience. Last year, the Distillery received more than 275,000 guests from around the world.

The famous Lynchburg, Tennessee distillery turns 150 this year, marking a century-and-a-half as America's oldest registered distillery.

Brown-Forman, which reported \$684 million in net income last year, employs about 4,400 workers. ♦ Source: TN ECD

Stony Creek—From Seed To Closet

SPRINGFIELD, TN (March) Stony Creek Colors, Inc. officials announced the company will locate a new facility in Springfield.

The indigo plant processing and distribution company will expand to invest \$7.2 million over the next five years and create 50 jobs in Robertson County.

Stony Creek Colors is an emerging U.S. manufacturer of bio-based dyes for the textile industry and is expanding production of their flagship product, natural indigo for denim and other clothing items. The company contracts with local farmers for its indigo supply in order to sustainably produce its natural indigo dye with full transparency and authenticity.

Some years ago Sarah Bellos, CEO and Founder, along with her sisters, set out to build a company that offered beautiful, naturally dyed clothing, they discovered a scalable source for natural dyes didn't exist. Then they started working with farmers, chemists, mills, and brands on creating a totally new way to manufacture bio-based dyes. Their natural indigo is a sustainable crop—it improves the health of people and ecosystems.

Their goal for the next four to five years is to produce 15,000 acres of indigo in the USA. That means they can replace 2.8% of synthetic indigo dye globally.

"Stony Creek Colors could not be more excited about our move to Springfield," Sarah Bellos said. "Robertson County's rich agricultural history made it the perfect place to bring experienced farmers into our producer network as we expand natural indigo production in the U.S. As more consumers seek to understand the sources behind the clothing they wear, it is critical we ensure that U.S. farmers have access to value-added crops that meet the growing demand for bio-based colors.

The new Springfield facility will be used to produce bio-based dyes to be sold to major denim and clothing manufacturers. With this location, Stony Creek will be closer to local

farmers who will grow the indigo plants used in its dyes.

The company, with the help of Robertson County Economic Development Board, will renovate an old tobacco processing plant for the new facility. The renovations include repairing loading docks, floors and stairwells and making sure the building is up to code. The new facility will be ready for operations in June 2016. ♦ Source: TN ECD and Stony Creek Website



Spring Round Of Certified Site Evaluations

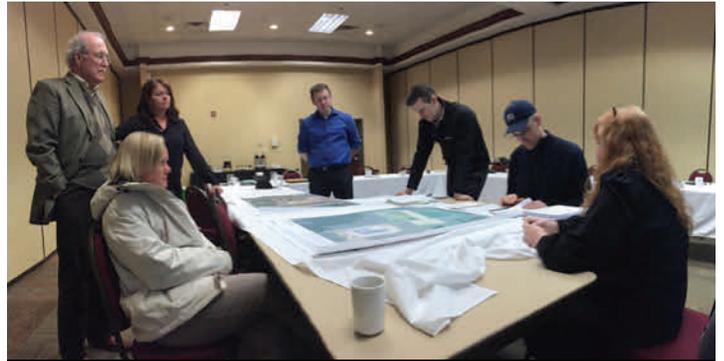


WARREN COUNTY

NASHVILLE, TN (February and April) The Select Tennessee Certified Sites program kicked off the spring round of certified site evaluations with visits to Warren County, Coffee County and Lincoln County. Jonathan Gemmen, Austin Consulting; Assistant Director Kendrick Curtis, Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association; TNECD Site Development Director Leanne Cox and other TNECD staff were in attendance during the visits. ♦



LINCOLN COUNTY



COFFEE COUNTY



FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Select TN Property Evaluation Program (PEP)

NASHVILLE, TN (April) The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the counties chosen to participate in the Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program (PEP) next Spring Round. The counties selected are Fayette, **Humphreys, Lawrence, Maury**, Scott, Unicoi, **Van Buren** and **White**. ♦ Source: TN ECD

FAYETTEVILLE, TN (April) In January 2016, Toledo Molding & Die, Inc. announced building a new manufacturing facility on the Select TN Certified Site: Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Park, Lot 4. As seen in this photo, progress is coming along very nicely. ♦



Steel Technologies Expands In Rutherford County

SMYRNA, TN (April) Steel Technologies LLC officials announced the company will build a new 83,000 square foot facility in Smyrna. Steel Technologies will invest \$18 million to build the Smyrna manufacturing facility, the company's second location in Rutherford County, and create 50 new jobs.

"This new greenfield operation expands our exposed and unexposed automotive slitting and blanking capabilities," Steel Technologies Vice President of Operations Randall Patterson said. "The facility will handle both steel and aluminum as we continue to deliver greater value and services to our strategic customers in the area."

Construction will begin mid-summer and is expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter of next year.

To accommodate its current customers and attract future clients, Steel Technologies will install a slitting line and a 1,000 ton blanking press to expand its platform in Tennessee. The company also has an existing location in Murfreesboro which employs 87 people.

Steel Technologies is one of the leading steel processors in North America. The company processes flat-rolled steel to specific thickness, width, temper, finish and shape requirements for the automotive, appliance, lawn and garden, agriculture,



construction, office furniture, hardware and consumer goods industries.

Operating 24 facilities in the United States, Canada and Mexico, Steel Technologies employs more than 1,800 people and produces over \$2 billion in annual sales.

Hiring will begin in late 2016 or early 2017.

◆ Source: TN ECD

Hankook Picks Nashville For Headquarters

NASHVILLE, TN (April) Hankook Tire America Corp officials announced the company will locate its North American headquarters in Nashville.

The global tire manufacturer will invest approximately \$5 million and create up to 200 jobs in Davidson County.

Hankook Tire was established in 1941 in South Korea and entered the U.S. market in 1981. Hankook is one of the leading and fastest growing tire companies in the world, with over 20,000 global employees.

This is the second facility in Tennessee for Hankook. In 2014, the company broke ground on a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Clarksville that will be completed by the end of this year.

Hankook plans to relocate its headquarters to Tennessee to service North American markets. The company is in the process of looking for space for its headquarters in downtown Nashville.

Local leaders and partners expressed gratitude to Hankook for choosing Nashville as the location for its North American headquarters. ◆ Source: TN ECD



Gun Maker Celebrates Opening Of TN Plant

GALLATIN, TN (April) Beretta USA held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new state-of-the-art firearms manufacturing and engineering center in Gallatin, which is expected to employ 300 people in the coming years.

Francesco Franzini, Beretta's top gunsmith and the vice president of manufacturing and engineering, guided reporters through the new facility after the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, where the Berettas presented Gov. Bill Haslam with the first Beretta shotgun made in Tennessee.

The 156,000-square-foot facility will produce the company's M9 9 mm pistol as well as a variety of other firearms, including shotguns and rifles. Already, Beretta is producing eight different firearms in Gallatin—six handguns, one shotgun and one sporting rifle.

Franzini, who personally designs Beretta's specialty firearms that can cost as much as six-figures, said the plant is currently at 30 percent capacity. He said the company intends to expand operations to include additional firearms on-site in Gallatin. ◆ Source: Nashville Business Journal



Harry's Fresh Foods To Manufacture On Both Sides Of The Rockies

NASHVILLE, TN (April) Portland, Oregon-based Harry's Fresh Foods officials announced the company will locate a new production facility in Nashville. The premium refrigerated and frozen foods manufacturer will invest \$34.3 million in the 200,000 square foot building and create 302 jobs in Davidson County. The 39-year-old company has a deal to take over the former Oberto Brands production facility at 2960 Armory Drive in South Nashville.

"This expansion increases Harry's capacity on both sides of the country and enables us to offer the same high-quality products with less distance to travel," said Harry's Fresh Foods CEO Jamie

Colbourne. "Having a 200,000-square-foot facility east of the Rocky Mountains improves efficiency and available delivered shelf life on the company's fresh, natural and organic products."

The company makes refrigerated and frozen soups, entrees, sides and desserts for grocery stores, clubs and food service accounts in more than 30 states. The company utilizes a quick-chill process to lock in flavor and freshness. The new Nashville facility will produce branded and private-label products for club, retail and food-service customers.

With this new facility, Harry's Fresh Foods will be able to reduce travel distance for products, which will have an environmental benefit for all of its products.

Harry's Fresh Foods plans to hire 25 employees in Nashville on May 1, adding another 60 to 75 employees in July.

Local leaders and partners expressed gratitude to Harry's Fresh Foods for choosing Nashville as the location for its new production facility. ♦ Source: TN ECD



GM Pumping More Money Into Maury County

SPRING HILL, TN (April) General Motors Co. is pumping more money into its Spring Hill manufacturing plant. The automotive giant said it will invest \$788.7 million in the Maury County facility in an expansion expected to create nearly 800 new jobs.

As part of the investment, GM said it will introduce new high-efficiency engine program in Spring Hill, which comes on the heels of a nearly \$150 million investment the company announced in February to build V8 engines.

Detroit-based GM has revived the once dormant Saturn facility in Spring Hill, pouring more than \$2 billion since 2010 into the facility, which is churning out two lines of SUVs, V8 engines for a series of trucks and SUVs and smaller engines for more than two dozen GM models.

These types of investments have spurred a flurry of additional investment and new auto-related jobs in Middle Tennessee by GM suppliers, a ripple effect that is promising for the region and state economies. During the past few years, auto suppliers have brought manufacturing and even

headquarters operations to the Nashville region to be close to automakers like GM and Nissan North America. Most recently, Korean-tire maker Hankook Tire announced earlier this month it will complete its new Clarksville tire plant with its North American headquarters in downtown Nashville.

GM's latest investment in Spring Hill will also modernize vehicle programs at the plant. Construction will start in May and take several years, GM said.

Earlier this year, GM said it would begin making the GMC Acadia, a popular midsize SUV, in Spring Hill later. Alongside that model, GM also produces a mid-size Cadillac SUV at the Maury County plant, which currently employs more than 2,600 people.

♦ Source: Nashville Business Journal



Novus Expanding Into Lawrenceburg

LAWRENCEBURG, TN (April) Novus Advanced Manufacturing LLC, based in Jackson, Tennessee, has announced it will expand its operation and open a facility in Lawrenceburg.

Novus specializes in manufacturing steel panels for the hospitality and retail center sectors. The company will invest \$1.9 million to renovate an existing space in the Tennessee Enterprise Center and create 47 new jobs.

Renovations are currently underway and include the installation of a 25-foot drive-in door to accommodate oversized metal panels, an electrical upgrade and office updates. The facility is slated to be operational in June. Novus will begin the hiring process May 1.

◆ Source: TN ECD

2016 Community Data Profiles

The 2016 MTIDA Community Data Profiles are now on our website. The profiles are updated every year by each community and printed hard copies are supplied to the chambers, Industrial Boards, city or county offices. Each profile is also linked with the individual communities websites and to the local power companies. Please take a look at the updated MTIDA Community Data Profiles at www.mtida.org

Mark Your Calendars

The Annual MTIDA Board of Directors Meeting and Seminar will be held Thursday, July 28, 2016 and Friday, July 29, 2016. Official invitations will be going out the end of June.



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