

Morgan County Economic Development Association 2015-2016 *Annual Report*



New & Expanding Industry in Morgan County

Morgan County Economic Development Association

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During fiscal year 2015-2016, October 2015 to September 2016, Morgan County had 8 non-confidential expansions and 7 confidential expansions or equipment upgrades announced for a total of **\$64,717,742** capital investment and **199 new jobs**. Due to confidentiality, some jobs and investment figures are not included individually, but the final totals reflect all.

Morgan County is a consistent leader in Alabama in existing industry expansion and is currently home to approximately 150 industries, including 12 Fortune 500 companies and 8 Global 500 companies.

<u>EXPANDING COMPANIES</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>JOBS</u>
BUSCHE	Hartselle	\$ 26,000,000	75
Daikin America	Decatur	\$ 15,000,000	0
Fatback Pig Project	Eva	\$ 75,000	4
Gemstone Foods	Decatur	\$ 105,000	100
Nucor Steel	Decatur	\$ 4,400,000	0
OCI Alabama, LLC	Decatur	\$ 2,650,000	3
Sonoco Products-Wood Reels	Hartselle	\$ 0	8
Styrolution	Decatur	\$ 1,000,000	0
*TOTAL Expansions:	15		
*TOTAL Investment & Jobs:		\$ 64,717,742	199
*MORGAN COUNTY TOTALS:	15	\$ 64,717,742	199

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

39th Annual Southeastern U.S. Japan Conference in Tokyo

Morgan County Commission Chairman Ray Long and MCEDA President Jeremy Nails joined other Alabama business leaders in a delegation representing the state of Alabama at the 39th Annual Southeastern U.S. Japan Conference September 20-22 at the Imperial Hotel. More than 30 Alabama government officials, economic development professionals, and others who work in finance, manufacturing, medical technology, and tourism attended the event.

The conference, known as SEUS Japan, brings together people from seven Southeastern U.S. states and Japan. The conference location alternates between the U.S. and Japan each year. In addition to the conference, the trip allows meetings with current Japanese prospects and building relationships with existing industry officials. Chairman Long and Nails were able to visit Toray's corporate headquarters during the trip. During their visit, local Daikin manager, Mike Ladd, traveled to Japan to introduce the Morgan County team to some of their new executives over dinner. Nails stated, "It is important to continue to build on the strong relationships we have with our friends in Japan, thank them for their investments in our community, and explore ways to grow their businesses together." The 40th SEUS Japan Conference is scheduled for October 22-24, 2017 in Greenville, South Carolina.



8th Grade Endless Opportunities Hands-On Career Expo

On October 27, 2016, MCEDA and the Decatur Morgan Chamber of Commerce hosted 8th grade students from Morgan County, Decatur City, Hartselle City, and area private schools at the annual Endless Opportunities Hands-On Career Expo, presented by 3M, at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion Meeting & Event Center.

Approximately 1,600 students explored a wide variety of career clusters where they were able to participate in hands-on activities related to results of their Kuder Interest Inventory Assessment that was performed in September.

Students were excited and engaged as they launched rockets with United Launch Alliance, created chemical reactions with 3M and Ascend, worked a rope challenge with GE Appliances, used a robot to grab pieces of candy at Alabama Technology Network's display, and learned more about the materials made at Nucor Steel and Hexcel. Calhoun Community College filled the health science area where students were able to explore phlebotomy, dentistry, surgical tech, emergency care, and several other health related fields.

MCEDA would like to thank all of this year's sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor: **3M**

Corporate Sponsors: **Ascend, Big Heart Pet Brands, Calhoun Community College, Hexcel, Nucor, & United Launch Alliance**

Lunch & Drink Sponsors: **Big Heart Pet Brands & Pepsi Cola of Decatur**

Door Prize Sponsors: **Bunge & Regions Bank**



ANNUAL INDUSTRY VISITS

Each year MCEDA meets onsite with various companies in Morgan County to discuss and evaluate community/industry relations. This year we completed visits with more than 30 Morgan County industries. It is the goal of MCEDA to visit with each industry in Morgan County every two years.

The industries in Morgan County are vital to our economic stability. These visits allow MCEDA to discuss and assist local industries with problems or issues, learn more about their long term needs and goals, and target opportunities for growth within Morgan County. This continues to be a valuable and rewarding process and we look forward to expanding the companies we meet with in the future.

Some of the commonalities discovered this year include the need for marketing materials on Morgan County to assist in recruiting talented employees, addressing the problem of absenteeism among local employees, developing more machinists in the local talent pool, and understanding the companies' relationships with suppliers and customers to better gauge the supply chain within Morgan County. MCEDA is currently working with the appropriate agencies or officials on how we can resolve these concerns.

CO-OP MEET & GREETs

In June, MCEDA hosted an evening to allow approximately 35 summer interns from various industries to network with one another and learn more about Decatur and Morgan County. They were given information about community events, attractions, and restaurants. Recruiting young professionals is imperative in continued growth for Morgan County.





MCEDA held its 22nd Annual Industry Appreciation Dinner on September 27th at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion Meeting and Event Center. The Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament took place on September 29th at Burningtree Country Club. Approximately 200 guests were in attendance for the dinner and 64 golfers participated in the tournament.

A special thank you to all our sponsors for helping make these events possible. We would not be able to have such successful events without your support. We would also like to thank Tiffany Brightwell for the beautiful painting she created during our dinner.

DINNER SPONSORS

Gold Sponsors

- 3M
- Alabama Farmers Cooperative
- Daikin America
- Decatur Morgan Hospital
- Decatur Printing Solutions, LLC
- Decatur Utilities
- Fite Building Company
- GE Appliances, a Haier Company
- Harris, Caddell & Shanks, P.C.
- Hartselle Utilities
- Huntsville International Airport
- Hyosung USA
- Joe Wheeler EMC
- Pugh Wright McAnally
- Sexton Incorporated

- Spectrum Business Enterprise Solutions
- TRANE
- Watermark Property Group

Silver Sponsors

- AlphaPet, Inc.
- Corum's Building and Farm Center
- Decatur Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Dunn Building Company
- HOAR Program Management
- Littlejohn Engineering
- Progress Bank and Trust
- Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.
- Tennessee Valley Training Center

Bronze Sponsors

- Red Sage Communications, Inc.
- NAFECO
- FSI Fleet Services

Drink Sponsor

- Pepsi Cola Decatur

Door Prize Sponsors

- 3M
- Decatur Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Pepsi Cola of Decatur
- Jamie Reaves Remax Realtor
- Jimmy Smith Jewelers
- Morgan Price Candy Co.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

HOLE SPONSORS

- AlphaPet, Inc.
- Byrd, Smalley, Adams, PC
- Daikin America
- Dunn Building Company
- Hall, Albright, Garrison & Assoc.
- Joe Wheeler EMC
- Peoples Bank of Alabama
- Progress Bank and Trust
- Pugh Wright McAnally

- Renasant Bank
- Spectrum Business Enterprise Solutions
- Valley Rubber

Hole-In-One Sponsor

- Lynn Layton Chevrolet

Longest Drive Sponsor

- Toray Carbon Fibers America, Inc.

Lunch Sponsor

- Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC

Drink Sponsors

- Pepsi Cola Decatur
- Valley Budweiser

GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS

FIRST PLACE TEAM

- John Kulhman, Patrick Gupton, Tim Lovelace, & Andrew Edwards

SECOND PLACE TEAM

- Brent Breedlove, Ray Hardin, & David Thomas

THIRD PLACE TEAM

- John Pylant, Stephen Corby, Joey Isbell, & Tony Riddlehoover

BEST EFFORT

- Josh Johnson, James Henderson, Ray Long, & Randy Vest

CLOSEST TO THE PIN: Mike Miller

LONGEST DRIVE: Patrick Gupton



80 Year Anniversary

Alabama Farmers Co-op

Serves the needs of farmers and homeowners throughout the south and manufactures feed products and fertilizers. AFC currently employs approximately 165.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Larry Bennich, AFC Board Member & Rivers Myres, President at AFC.

75 Year Anniversary

Ardent Mills

Located in Morgan County as ConAgra and became Ardent Mills in 2014. They manufacture flour and currently employ approximately 45.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Jon Kemp, Assistant Plant Manager & Corey Bumgardner, Elevator Manager at Ardent Mills.

50 Year Anniversary

ITW Sexton

Opened as Sexton Can in 1966, ITW Sexton manufactures aerosol steel cans and currently employs approximately 141.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Bret Shankleton, Plant Manager; Terry Widner, Customer Service Manager; Anita Long, Accounts Payable; & Antonio Langford, Quality Manager at ITW Sexton.

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

AMDEK

Amdek manufactures plastic injection molds and pad print decoration. They currently employ 12.

DAIKIN, AMERICA

Daikin America manufactures fluoropolymers. The company has invested millions of dollars in their facilities over the last 25 years and they have increased employment to approximately 375.

LEKTRON

Lektron manufactures wiring assemblies, printed circuit boards, and explosive actuators (for defense industry). They opened their new facility in 2003 and they currently employ 11.

PRECISION MACHINE

Originally located in Hartselle, Precision Machine is a general machining operation that manufactures replacement parts and components. In 1996 they moved their facility to Decatur and they currently employ approximately 14.

SAPUTO DAIRY

The old Premium Dairy facility was purchased by DASI products in 1991 and transitioned over the years to what is now known as Saputo Dairy. Saputo manufactures an assortment of ice cream mixes and they currently employ approximately 79.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Jan & John Clemons, Owners of Precision Machine.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Forrest Keith, Community Relations Manager; Cindy Hanback, Warehouse Manager; David Jones, Engineering Manager; Paul Greer, H.R. Manager; Val Ray, Director of Operations; Takao Yamamoto, Engineering Manager; Yuji(Nick) Hiroto, Vice President; and Ralph Werling, Director of Engineering at Daikin America.



Pictured is Sen. Orr with Scott Manlove, Production Manager & Kirt Terry, Processing Manager at Saputo Dairy.

MANUFACTURE ALABAMA AWARDS



MCEDA would like to congratulate several Morgan County manufacturers who were presented with safety awards from Manufacture Alabama at their Annual Safety/Human Resources/Health Conference in May.

Chemical Manufacturing with up to 125 Employees: 1st Place, Styrolution America; 2nd Place, Toray Fluorofibers America; 3rd Place, OCI Alabama, LLC.

Chemical Manufacturing with 251-500 Employees: 1st Place, Toray Carbon Fibers America; 2nd Place, Ascend Performance Materials.

Primary Metal Manufacturing with more than 501 Employees: 1st Place, Nucor Steel Decatur.

In addition to receiving a safety award, these industries were also recognized as the Governor's *No Lost Time Certificate Winners*. 3M was presented with two no-lost-time accident awards.

DECATUR-MORGAN REMAINS IN TOP 10 METROS FOR ANOTHER YEAR



Decatur-Morgan County received another Top 10 Metro Ranking by *Site Selection Magazine* for its ability to attract business. Decatur earned the ranking in the category of "Metros With Populations Less Than 200,000" in the March 2016 issue. This year the Decatur Metro claimed the ninth position in a 3-way tie. The rankings are based on the number of projects announced in 2015. Each year *Site Selection Magazine* evaluates every metro and micro economy in the nation based on jobs and capital investment generated by corporate facility projects. They factor into their rankings the creativity of economic development strategy, depth and breadth of project activity, ability to generate breakthrough deals, and the ability to properly document the contributions of the economic development organization to actual project results. They also look at jobs per capita and investment per capita to give every community in America an equal chance of winning. In the past six years, Decatur Metro has been ranked nationally at number 1, number 7 twice, and number 6.

BP AND GE ACQUIRED BY GLOBAL COMPANIES

On March 31, 2016, Thailand company, Indorama Ventures Public Company Limited (IVPCL), a world-leading producer of intermediate petrochemicals, acquired BP Decatur. Now known as Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA LLC, this company produces the raw materials that go into many plastics, such as water bottles. IVPCL also owns AlphaPet, Incorporated, also in Decatur, and has other facilities in Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Texas, and Louisiana.

On June 6, 2016, GE Appliances was bought by the Chinese company, Haier Group, the world's largest home appliance maker. Haier's purchase of GE Appliances is the leading global corporate acquisition so far this year and the third-largest in the United States by a Chinese buyer to date, according to Dealogic. The Decatur Plant will continue to operate normally and the headquarters will remain in Kentucky.



Andrea Owensby Becomes Morgan County Economic Development Association's Marketing, Communications, & Membership Coordinator



In July, Morgan County Economic Development Association (MCEDA) announced the hiring of Andrea Owensby as Marketing, Communications, and Membership Coordinator. Owensby is responsible for planning, development and implementation of all of MCEDA's marketing strategies, marketing communications, public relations activities, and membership initiatives, both externally and internally. She will also oversee the development and implementation of support materials in the area of marketing, communications, and membership development.

Most recently, Owensby worked for the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Community Outreach and Communication. She was responsible for membership acquisition and retention, coordinating Chamber events and programs, and developing content, design, and layout for publications and event marketing materials. Some of the programs she coordinated include the Sporting Clay Tournament, Total Resource Campaign, the Home and Garden Show, Montgomery Drive In, and the Youth and Adult Leadership Programs.

Jeremy Nails, President and CEO, stated, "We are pleased to have Andrea join the MCEDA team. Her experience and talents will be an asset in communicating to our board, our members, and our internal and external marketing targets."

Originally from Anniston, Alabama, Owensby is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She resides in Decatur with her husband, Stuart, and their two children, Analeigh (11) and Layton (6).

OCI GROUND BREAKING



On August 4, 2016, OCI Alabama, LLC the nation's largest manufacturer of sodium percarbonate, a key ingredient in dish and laundry detergent, held a groundbreaking for a facility expansion. This \$2.65 million expansion will include construction of a warehouse and installation of automated packing equipment. OCI originally located in Morgan County in August 2000 and we appreciate their continued investment in our community.



NAWDA UPDATE



The North Alabama Workforce Development Alliance (NAWDA) continued to show growth in 2016. In 2014, the monthly plant manager's Industrial Council highlighted the need for a group to assess and train the skill level of area contractors. From those efforts NAWDA was created and MCEDA, in conjunction with several other area stakeholders, serve on the board of the alliance. This year, memberships from both contractors and plants increased, as well as outreach efforts. As an example of the success of outreach efforts, Mike Ladd with Daikin America was invited to speak on the Economic Development Association of Alabama's Summer Conference Workforce Innovations Panel in July. From this event, Mike shared NAWDA's mission and successes with economic developers around the state. As NAWDA has grown, the need for a fulltime executive director became clear. Capping off an effective year, Mandy Price accepted this position in August and is working towards streamlining reporting, increasing membership, and expanding community relations of the alliance.

2015-2016 MCEDA Membership

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

3M
AFC, Inc.
Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Alabama Ladder Company Inc.
Alabama Technology Network
Alliance Sand and Aggregates, LLC
AlphaPet Inc.
Ascend Performance Materials
Associated Builders & Contractors of North Alabama
Automatic SMP
Bank Independent
Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon, Inc
BBVA Compass
Big Heart Pet Products
Brown Recycling & Manufacturing
Bunge North America, Inc.
BUSCHE
Byrd Maintenance Services, Inc.
Byrd, Smalley & Adams PC
C&L Wood Products, Inc.
Calhoun Community College
City of Decatur
City of Hartselle
Concrete Fiber Solutions
Contractor Service & Fabrication, Inc.
Cook's Pest Control, Inc.
Corporate Warehouse Services
Corum's Building & Farm Center
Daikin America, Inc.
Decatur Career Center
Decatur Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Decatur Corridor Inc.
Decatur Daily
Decatur Morgan Hospital
Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation
Decatur Printing Solutions LLC
Decatur Utilities
Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
Decatur-Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau
DoubleTree by Hilton-Decatur Riverfront
Dunn Building Company, LLC
Eddie Preuitt Ford, Inc.
ENERSOLV
Eva Bank
Eyster, Key, Tubb, Roth, Middleton & Adams
Fite Building Company, Inc.
FSI - Fleet Services Inc.
G & J Automatic Screw, Inc.
Gateway Commercial Brokerage, Inc.

GE Appliances, a Haier Company
Gobble-Fite Lumber Company, Inc.
Goss Electric, Inc.
Great Southern Engineering
Hagemeyer
Hall Albright Garrison & Associates P.C.
Harris, Caddell and Shanks
Hartselle Area Chamber of Commerce
Hartselle Utilities
HDT Global/DHS Systems LLC
Hexcel Corporation
HOAR Program Management
Horizon Point Consulting, Inc.
Hutto Printing
Hyosung USA, Inc.
Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA LLC
ITC-AL, LLC
J&M Signs
Jimmy Smith Jewelers
JIT Industries, Inc.
Joe Wheeler EMC
Kinder Morgan - Decatur River Port
Lakeland Industries, Inc
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
LiftOne
Limestone Building Group
LittleJohn Engineering Associates
Lyon's HR
Lynn Layton Chevrolet
Lynn Layton Ford
M & D Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Magic Steel Sales LLC
Matthews Industries, Inc
Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc.
MICOR Industries, Inc.
Morgan County Commission
NAFECO
National Packaging Company, Inc.
NAWDA
NEO Industries (Alabama), Inc.
Nowlin Development Company, Inc.
Nucor Steel Decatur, LLC
OCI Alabama LLC
Office Interiors by OSCO, Inc.
Parker Real Estate LLC
Peck Funeral Home
Peoples Bank
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
Petroleum Sales, Inc.
PNC Bank
Polyplex USA, LLC
Port of Decatur/Parker Towing

Premier System Integrators
Pro-Air Services, Inc.
Pro-Fab Machine of Hartselle, Inc.
Progress Bank and Trust
Pugh Wright McAnally
Red Sage Communications Inc.
Regions Bank
Renasant Bank
Rural Morgan County Industrial Development Board
S & M E
S.S. Nesbitt & Company, Inc.
Sexton, Incorporated
Southern Synergy, Inc.
Spectrum Business Enterprise Solutions
Sue-Jac, Inc.
Tanksley Machine and Tool, Inc.
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tennessee Valley Recycling, LLC
Tennessee Valley Training Center
Terracon Consultants
The Boeing Company
Thompson Engineering
Thompson Tractor Company, Inc.
Toray Carbon Fibers America
Toray Fluorofibers (America), Inc.
Town of Eva
Town of Falkville
Town of Priceville
Town of Somerville
Town of Trinity
Trane/ Trane Rental Services
Tru-Line Mfg.
TTL, Inc.
United Launch Alliance
University of Alabama System
Valley Budweiser
Valley Rubber, LLC
Watermark Property Group, LLC
Wells Fargo

Individual Members:

Sonny Craig
Trudy Grisham
Lynn Fowler

