



August 2005

www.alabamausa.org

Alabama Development Office

\$130 Million BioTech Facility To Bring 900 Jobs to Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE -- Gov. Bob Riley said the creation of a \$130 million biotech facility here can position the state of Alabama to "lead the world" in cutting-edge research on disease treatment, while creating a new kind of economy for the state.

Gov. Riley made the comments during the formal announcement of the state's \$50 million commitment to help build the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology in the Cummings Research Park.

The institute will be led by Huntsville biotechnology pioneer Jim Hudson and will combine high-level nonprofit research

with providing space for biotech companies to develop and market discoveries made by the institute. Hudson also wants to provide a major forum for



An artist rendering shows the proposed Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology planned for Cummings Research Park in Huntsville.

(Continued on page 2)

Governor To Lead Mission to Israel

MONTGOMERY -- Gov. Bob Riley will lead a delegation of Alabama business leaders on a jobs mission to Israel in September in an effort to foster economic development and trade.

"This is a great opportunity to create jobs for Alabamians," Gov. Riley said. "We'll promote Alabama and look for companies interested in opening new operations in our state and new trade opportunities for Alabama companies. Our message is that Alabama is open for business and can offer much to Israeli industries and high-tech companies."

The mission is being organized by the Alabama Development Office, the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Birmingham Jewish Federation and Tech Birmingham. Between Sept. 9-16, the group will travel to Tel Aviv, Israel's commerce center, and industrial park in the city of Rosh Ha'ayin and a business incubator site in Gallilee.

Israel's high-tech industries as well as its defense-related and security-related industries will be targeted for special attention.

(Continued on page 3)

New ABC Show Celebrates Greenville

GREENVILLE -- The premiere episode of "My Kind of Town" celebrated Greenville this month on the ABC television network. Recently, about 200 residents of the town flew to New York to tape this episode of the show, hosted by British television and radio celebrity Johnny Vaughn.

The show is an energetic primetime studio show in which American people have the chance to become stars of their own show for one memorable night. Each week a lucky handful of residents selected from among the townspeople in the audience participate in individualized comedic games and gags for prizes tailored to their own lives, interests and needs.

"We selected Greenville from a field of hundreds because we instantly fell in love with the people and think our viewers will too," said Executive Producer Michael Davies of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* fame. "These towns have unique qualities and extraordinary, memorable people that we believe will transcend universally."

Article Highlights State's Trade Show Efforts

MONTGOMERY -- Alabama's marketing efforts at the Ligna wood products trade fair were highlighted in a recent edition of *Panel World* magazine.

"I was impressed first of all that Alabama had ventured forth in Ligna, second that it had landed in Hall 27, the only hall to be in if you're interested in the international panel industry, and third by

(Continued on page 2)

Aerospace Facility Will Add 250 Jobs

TALLASSEE -- British-owned GKN Aerospace will add 250 new jobs and expand its production facility in the Elmore County city of Tallassee, Gov. Bob Riley recently announced.

GKN plans to invest \$20 million to build a 120,000-square-foot addition to its existing 260,000-square-foot building. The company, which employs 535 people in Tallassee, manufactures lightweight wing panels for aircraft for clients such as Airbus, Sikorsky and Lockheed Martin.

Groundbreaking on the expansion will be held in the fall and the expansion could be completed by the spring of 2007.

When asked why GKN chose to expand its facility in Tallassee and not one of its other facilities, Paul Cocker, vice president and general manager, said "the workforce in Alabama is about the best I've worked for in 35 years. And the work ethic of the whole workforce is tremendous. They work hard and they work well."



GKN EXPANDS -- Gov. Riley presents the state seal to Paul Cocker of GKN Aerospace in honor of the company's expansion.

AIDT Earns International Certification

MONTGOMERY -- Alabama Industrial Development Training, Alabama's worker recruitment and training agency, has received international certification for the quality of its services and is the first state workforce organization in the United States to achieve that recognition. The certification was awarded for AIDT's development and delivery of pre-employment training and on-the-job training.

"One of the reasons Alabama is recognized as having one of the strongest economies of any state is because of the high quality of our workforce," Gov. Bob Riley said. "This certification is a tremendous plus for our ability to attract new industry and create new jobs."

AIDT, currently ranked number one among state workforce training agencies in the U.S., is the only program of its kind in the nation to earn the ISO 9001:2000 certification. Since its creation in 1971, AIDT has trained 250,000 workers for 3,500 Alabama organizations.

Biotech Firm To Bring 900 Jobs to Huntsville

(Continued from page 1)

science education throughout the state. Construction is scheduled to begin this winter and will be completed by the fall of 2007. The facility will house and support eight research teams and provide license opportunities for companies based there to make commercial use of institute researcher discoveries.

"This can be a catalyst for a new type of growth," Gov. Riley said. "We are actively, aggressively positioning Alabama toward becoming a worldwide leader in biotechnology.

Open Meetings Seminar Planned for Montgomery

TALLASSEE - The Economic Development Association of Alabama will present a workshop on "How the New Open Meetings Law Can Affect Economic Development" September 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at Alabama Industrial Development Training in Montgomery.

The workshop will feature a special address by Alabama's Attorney General Troy King as well as detailed explanations by attorneys.

The new Open Meetings Law takes effect on October 1. The workshop will provide essential information on how to comply with the law and at the same time keep momentum going for economic development in Alabama.

For more information, contact John Hansen or Janice Brown of EDAA at 334-262-7932 or send an e-mail to fmds44a@prodigy.net

Alabama Well Represented At Wood Products Fair

(Continued from page 1)

the number of bodies who made the trip," said Editor Rich Donnell.

Donnell commented that the impressive crowd of Alabamians was on hand to entice more foreign investment in the wood products industry. "If they keep landing the likes of the Kronospan project, other states may start contracting them out," he said.

"During the first day of Ligna, I continued to hear more bits and pieces concerning the Oxford project (Kronospan), but only when I turned the corner and ventured up another aisle of Hall 27 did I run into something that I knew could give me all of the answers. That something was the attractive exhibit of the Alabama Development Office."

ADO Project Manager Gary Faulkner and Dr. Hajo Drees, ADO's European representative, represented the agency.

This article underscores the fact that our exhibits are successful and worth our sponsors' participation," said ADO Director Neal Wade.

Alabama Gears Up To Take Advantage Of Free Trade Pact

By Hilda Lockhart
Alabama Development Office
International Trade Division

MONTGOMERY -- The U.S. House of Representatives passed the U.S.-Dominican Republic - Central America- Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), removing trade barriers and opening a market of over 44 million consumers to American products. Alabama manufacturers will immediately see an elimination of tariffs on 80 percent of their exports

Despite the small size of these nations individually, their combined market is bigger than most imagine. Alabama exported \$472 million in 2004, the eighth-largest total among the 50 states. Shipments to the DR-CAFTA region in 2004 accounted for 5 percent of the state's total world exports, the sixth-largest share among the states. The majority of goods shipped were in apparel; with yarns, fibers, threads and fabrics.

The agriculture sector will also benefit from this larger market. This agreement will immediately eliminate tariffs on 50% of US agricultural exports and most remaining duties within 15 years. Poultry and beef, which provide billions of dollars in revenue for Alabama, currently face tariffs as high as 164 percent when exporting to the DR -CAFTA region.

CAFTA levels an existing relationship as 80 percent of imports from the CAFTA region already come into the U.S. duty-free. With this agreement, the playing field has been leveled and gives Alabama manufacturers, farmers and service providers broader access to this valuable market.

Israel Growing Market for U.S. Goods (Continued from page 1)

In 2004, Alabama exported \$26.7 million worth of goods to Israel, an increase of almost 48 percent from the previous year. Also, Alabama companies benefit from U.S. military contracts with Israel. Companies in Alabama received \$1.35 million in contracts in 2003.

"Governor Riley's strong sales skills and extensive business background have proven effective in previous visits overseas," said ADO Director Neal Wade, referencing earlier trips made by the Governor to Germany and France that helped Alabama successfully recruit Kronospan and EADS. "We believe this mission will again deliver positive results for Alabama."



CAFTA -- President Bush signs the CAFTA agreement with Central American ambassadors.

Door Manufacturer To Locate in Moody

MOODY -- Trinity Glass International has announced plans to locate its Southeastern distribution center for the Feather River door line of products in Moody. The new plant, which will be located in a 527,800-square-foot building in the Moody Commerce Park, will create about 100 new jobs for the area.

High-Tech Industry Directory Available

HUNTSVILLE -- Alabama's technology-based companies now have a tool that will make their company information readily available to prospects worldwide. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the University of Alabama in Huntsville have created an easily accessible online directory that highlights the wealth of high tech resources in Alabama.

If your company is interested in being included in the directory, visit www.hightechdirectory.alabama.gov.

NASA Contract Secures Huntsville Space Growth

HUNTSVILLE -- NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston has exercised two contract options with Boeing for continued work on the U.S. segment of the International Space Station.

The options, valued at \$316 million, were exercised on the International Space Station Program United States On-Orbit Segment (USOS) Acceptance and Vehicle Sustaining Engineering Contract.

Small Business Conference Set for Fort Rucker

ENTERPRISE -- A one-day Small Business Conference and Opportunities Fair will be held in Fort Rucker on August 24th. Representatives from various government agencies and prime contractors will be present to talk with small business owners. To make individual appointments with agencies, contact the Troy University Small Business Development Center at 334-670-3771.