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Alabama Development Office

Hudson-Alpha Breaks Ground For 900-Employee Facility

HUNTSVILLE -- Gov. Bob Riley, company leaders and local officials broke ground here this month for the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology (HAIB) to be built in the Cummings Research Park.

The four-story building will house up to 900 employees and contain state-of-the-art laboratories for biotechnology product research, development and production. Space also will be allocated for high school and college-level training programs.

Gov. Riley announced the company was locating in Huntsville in August 2005. The state has committed \$50 million in order to secure \$80 million in private investment for the economic development project.



Gov. Riley breaks ground with company and city officials for the new Hudson-Alpha Institute.

Five local biotechnology companies have already committed to leasing space within HAIB and additional companies are being recruited to locate on the campus. HAIB will foster cooperation between its scientific research staff and biotechnology companies to shorten the time between the

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2005 Totals Show Major Increase In Alabama Automotive Production

Alabama's automakers sent almost 479,000 vehicles to the marketplace in 2005, moving the state closer to fulfilling its potential as a major automotive producer.

Honda Manufacturing of Alabama LLC contributed the largest share, reporting a total production of 292,040 vehicles for the year. That includes Honda's Odyssey minivan as well as its Pilot sport-utility vehicle.

The Lincoln plant, which opened for commercial production more than three years ago, hit full production capacity during 2005 and marked the

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Sikorsky To Expand Huntsville Operations

HUNTSVILLE -- Sikorsky Aircraft has announced the expansion of its existing Huntsville offices to provide a technical integration center in support of U.S. Army Black HAWK helicopters and other military aviation programs.

Employment will be increased at the plant from 10 to more than 60 people. The company will initially expand its Huntsville offices before relocating to a new 14,000-square-foot facility by late summer.

Fairhope Gets Contract To Build U.S. Helicopters

FAIRHOPE -- Crestview Aerospace Corp.'s Fairhope plant will expand and add 60 employees as a result of an eight-year contract to produce bodies for the new military UH-1Y helicopter. The contract will be worth up to \$100 million.

Crestview received a contract with Bell Helicopter Textron to build "airframes"-the basic body of the aircraft-for the utility helicopter starting this month.

The company acquired the 123,000-square-foot Fairhope facility in May 2005.

Incubator Boosting Tuscaloosa Economy

TUSCALOOSA -- Researchers at the University of Alabama are taking discoveries from the laboratory and creating new businesses that could bolster the local economy and provide future revenue for academic research.

The Bama Technology Incubator, created more than one year ago, houses three companies started by university faculty. The program provides low rent office or lab space, staff to do research, meeting space and internet access. UA students and consultants create business models for the inventions.

Alabama-Made SUVs Displayed at Detroit Show

DETROIT -- Alabama-made vehicles were displayed prominently at the North American International Auto Show held in Detroit this month.

Mercedes-Benz unveiled its first full-size SUV, which will be made at its plant near Tuscaloosa while Hyundai showed off its revamped Santa Fe SUV, which will be built at its plant near Montgomery.

The vehicles are targeted at different market segments, but the combined effect demonstrates that Alabama is a major force in the car business, promoters said.

Ted vonCannon, president of Birmingham's Metropolitan Development Board, said Alabama has taken a place on center stage in Detroit in recent years.

Alabama Automakers Build Up State's Industry

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making of its 500,000th vehicle. The company also hired 300 new employees, bringing total employment at the plant to approximately 4,500.

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International produced 95,558 vehicles last year, setting a new record for the Tuscaloosa County plant. Employment reached 4,000 last year. This year the plant will begin production of the new GL-Class, which debuted this month at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit

Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama began production on its first vehicle, the Sonata sedan, in early 2005 and reported production of 91,218 vehicles by the end of the year. Employment grew to 2,700 in 2005. Hyundai is currently in test production on its second vehicle, the Santa Fe SUV. Commercial production is scheduled to begin in April. At full capacity, Hyundai will produce 300,000 vehicles per year.

Hudson-Alpha Breaks Ground

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development in the lab of new and promising technologies and their availability for application in the clinic.

"This marks a sea change," Gov. Riley said. "This is a base to grow on for the next generation. Huntsville has always been blessed with vision, and this effort makes the statement that not only can we compete with the rest of the world in scientific research, we will compete."

"I think it shows what Alabama is capable of doing," he said. "It makes a giant statement about the quality of companies in Alabama."

Bob Cosmai, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor America, said of the company's Alabama experience that "so far the honeymoon is going great, and I think we're going to be in it for a long pull with the state of Alabama."

Besides Mercedes and Hyundai, Honda builds minivans in Lincoln and Toyota has an engine factory in Huntsville.



Alabama the Right Choice, Says Mercedes Executive

DETROIT -- A Mercedes executive at the auto show in Detroit said that the company's decision to bring the plant to Alabama continues to prove its value. "Even if I wouldn't have made it I would say it was a very good decision," said Dieter Zetsche, chief executive officer of DaimlerChrysler.

"On the one hand, everything we got promised at that time stayed valid after we made the decision. That's not always and everywhere the case. Secondly, what we expected to find has proven true, which is a very committed work force and a very supportive state," he continued.

Governor Attends Ceremony For Wayne Farms in Decatur

DECATUR -- Gov. Bob Riley was among the dignitaries at this month's ribbon cutting ceremony for Wayne Farms in Decatur.

Company executives said they expect to hire 165 people at the new \$110 million poultry processing facility. The company already has five plants in Alabama and employs 861 people at its Decatur facilities.

Gov. Riley described the facility as one of the hottest economic properties in the Southeast with the potential to create economic diversity in North Alabama, especially in the Huntsville-Decatur area.

"This is state of the art," said Wayne Farms CEO Elton Maddox. "This is the most technologically advanced food-processing plant in the country."

Raytheon To Build New Facility in Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE -- Raytheon executive Tony Palumbo recently announced that the company will construct a 140,000-square-foot facility on 20 acres in Cummings Research Park.

Construction will begin in February and the company should move in to the new facility by early 2007.

"This new facility demonstrates Raytheon's continuing commitment to our customers and this outstanding community," Mr. Palumbo said. "We are realizing significant business growth in Alabama. Our new modern facility will provide enhanced capabilities to our customers and employees."

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer said, "Cummings Research Park is brimming with construction activity. Raytheon, with over 50 years in Huntsville, is a wonderful corporate citizen and I'm pleased to be part of their

announcement which signifies growth and commitment to their employees and the communities in which they live."

Irma Tudor, chamber of commerce chair for economic development, said, "We are gratified by Raytheon's investment in the community and look forward to seeing yet another new building under construction in the nation's second largest research park.



Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and Tony Palumbo, Raytheon's senior executive for Huntsville, unveil the rendering for the new facility.

Austal USA, Navy Celebrate Ship Keel-Laying

MOBILE -- Austal USA and the Navy held a keel-laying ceremony at its shipyard on the Mobile River this month, marking the beginning of a new design of a Navy ship and a milestone for a shipyard that could become one of Mobile's largest employers.

The military celebration, complete with the Navy Band New Orleans, is a tradition that dates to the Navy's beginning with the laying of a wooden keel for the USS Constitution in November 1794, according to Delores Etter, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition. Since then, "Much has changed in the world and much has changed in technology," she said. "But some things do not change. Today we celebrate the transition from a vision to a physical shape."

A massive aluminum keel-the spine on which the ship will be built- was already in place when guests including government officials and most of Austal's 430 employees arrived. Austal is the shipbuilder for a team led by Maine-based Bath Iron Works, a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corp., which in October won the \$223 million contract to build a version of the Navy's newest vessel- the littoral combat ship, or LCS.

Lockheed Martin Corp., the nation's largest defense contractor, is leading a team to build the first LCS in Wisconsin. The two contractors were chosen from an original group of 18 teams vying to build the ships, which at about \$220 million each cost substantially less than the Navy's \$3 billion next generation DD(X) destroyer.

Kakuda Named ADO's Japan Representative

Satoshi "Sam" Kakuda has been named as Alabama's new representative in Japan.

Mr. Kakuda, who worked closely with ADO previously as the Senior Trade Advisor for the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), will assist Japanese companies looking to expand investment into the southeastern United States. He also will serve as Alabama's representatives for targeted trade shows and as a contact for Japanese-based companies that have facilities in



Sam Kakuda

Alabama. Mr. Kakuda will work with Alabama trade specialists to link sellers and buyers and develop trade leads from key Japanese organizations and publications for dissemination to Alabama companies.

"Sam has a rich background in international business and we are proud that he will assist us in bringing additional Japanese investment to Alabama," said ADO Director Neal Wade. "With more than 30 years of experience as an employee of Sony Corporation, he has an understanding of cutting edge technologies and international marketing strategies."

Mr. Kakuda recently completed three years of work in Alabama and returned to Japan in November.