



April 2006

www.alabamausa.org

Alabama Development Office

Alabama Delegation Attends Biotechnology Convention

CHICAGO -- Gov. Bob Riley led a delegation of Alabama companies, university researchers and economic developers this month to Chicago for the biotechnology industry's largest annual meeting.

Gov. Riley, attending the BIO 2006 convention, said the Alabama delegation met with several companies and discussed ways the state can attract new biotechnology businesses. He said the state is pursuing biotechnology as aggressively as it has sought out automotive plants.

During the past three years, the state has made key investments in research and biotechnology, including \$12 million in economic development funds for the USA Cancer Research Institute, \$10 million for a new research park at Auburn University, and \$50 million in order to gain \$80 million in private investment to bring the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology (HAIB) to Huntsville.

"With the investment we've made and the kind of companies we want to attract, we need to be as aggressive at attracting pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as we've been in attracting manufacturers," Gov. Riley said.

Gov. Riley has pushed for the state to invest in biotechnology since before he became governor. He said with the medical research at UAB, the establishment of a cancer research center in Mobile, and the HAIB in Huntsville, the state's economic developers are able to show that Alabama is serious about becoming a state focused on biotechnology.

The Alabama delegation included officials from UAB, Auburn University, the USA's Cancer Research Institute, and the HAIB.

Gov. Riley joined twelve other governors at the annual meeting, giving him a chance to talk to governors who have been successful in courting biotechnology companies.

The delegation also met with key site selection consultants during the Chicago trip.



Gov. Riley greets conference attendees at the BIO 2006 convention in Chicago.

ADO, Chamber Plan Business Resource Fair

MONTGOMERY -- The Alabama Development Office and the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Business Resource Fair on Tuesday, May 23rd, in the Alabama Center for Commerce Exhibition Hall. Representatives from more than 20 federal and state agencies will be on hand to inform businesses of the services available to help their firms grow.

Manufacturers, small business owners and aspiring business owners are encouraged to attend this informative session.

Information will be available on management, technical and financial assistance, workforce development and tax incentives available for business.

For information, contact Nexton Marshall at 334-242-0439 (e-mail marshalln@ado.state.al.us) or Christie Sellers at 334-240-9292, (e-mail csellers@montgomerychamber.com).

KFH Industries To Locate in Dothan

DOTHAN -- KFH Industries, Inc. has announced that it will locate a fire hose manufacturing operation in Dothan which will employ 200 people when fully operational.

"We have started some of the early work to prepare our building for this project and anticipate production of our products in the May/June timeframe of this year by which we will grow from there," said Robert Gourlay, vice president of KFH Industries.

"The community leadership has been supportive of our efforts and needs and we look forward to a long lasting partnership," Mr. Gourlay said.

Raytheon, EADS Choose Mobile for Plant

MOBILE -- The Raytheon Company and EADS CASA North America this month announced the Mobile Regional Airport as the site of a proposed 150-employee aircraft assembly plant, a project state and local officials said could help transform the city into a major hub for aircraft manufacturing and design.

The new facility will create more than 150 jobs at full production if the companies' proposed CN-235/C-295 for the U.S. Army and Air Force Joint Cargo Aircraft is selected.

"Alabama has a long history of leadership in aviation and aerospace, and Mobile is quickly becoming a center of aerospace excellence," said Gov. Bob Riley. "This announcement reflects our longstanding commitment to the nation's defense and economy. This joint Raytheon/EADS CASA North America facility is another important step in expanding the high technology and engineering capabilities of southern Alabama."

Raytheon and EADS CASA, a subsidiary of the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., are

Riley Signs Funding For Development Projects

MONTGOMERY -- Gov. Bob Riley has signed into law legislation that appropriates up to \$2 million annually to help industrial development authorities prepare sites for new industry. The new law also requires that at least 20 percent of all grants be awarded to rural areas of the state.

"Alabama continues attracting national and international companies and the jobs they bring. This new law is part of our efforts to maintain a strong partnership between the state and local governments and industry that keeps moving Alabama's economy forward," Gov. Riley said.

The funding comes from the Alabama Capital Improvement Trust Fund and the bill was passed unanimously by both the House and the Senate.



HC-235A

bidding together for a \$3 billion contract to build cargo plans for the U.S. Army and Air Force. Construction of the plant is contingent on winning the Joint Cargo Aircraft competition. A decision is expected by December.

Regardless of the outcome of the JCA competition, EADS CASA North America has designated Mobile as the new completion and delivery center for all CN-235's and C-295's in North America--beginning with the Coast Guard's first HC-235As.

Construction on the new delivery center will begin during the second quarter of 2006.

Small Business Fair Planned for Mobile

MOBILE -- The Raytheon Company and EADS CASA North America Team JAC will hold a Small Business Opportunity Fair on subcontracting opportunities for the Joint Cargo Aircraft Program.

The fair will be held on Thursday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile. It is free to all participants.

The team is seeking small, small disadvantaged, woman-owned, veteran, service disabled veteran and hub-zone suppliers to provide security, catering, vending, general contracting, large-scale painting, engineering IT services, temporary employees, pilots, fabrication, cable and harness assembly, trucking, freight forwarding, staffing support, transportation, aircraft equipment components, facilities maintenance, ground support equipment and aircrew flight training.

To register, contact Christine Wilson at 310-607-7088 or e-mail her at cmwilson@raytheon.com. The deadline for registration is April 27th.

State-made Car Hits Record

MONTGOMERY -- Hyundai sold 17,487 Alabama-made Sonata sedans across the United States in March, a record month for the South Korean automaker. March sales of the sedan made in Montgomery rose 54 percent from March 2005.

"The Sonata had one of its strongest months since its redesign last year," said Mark Barnes, Hyundai's vice president of national sales.

UAH Opens Lean Aerospace Campus

HUNTSVILLE -- The University of Alabama at Huntsville will be the site of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's first lean aerospace center.

The LAI EdNet Center at UAH will offer the highly successful Lean Academy course to the aerospace industry. The class provides a hands-on introduction to lean and other continuous improvement fundamentals with a focus on aerospace applications. Participants will learn basic principles and experience lean practice through plant tours, simulations and interactions with experts in the field.

The center will be located within UAH's Office for Economic Development. Dr. Bill Killingsworth, director of the Office for Economic Development, said "This new EdNet center is an unprecedented opportunity that will enable us to provide higher levels of service to the aerospace industry, NASA, and the Army Aviation and Missile Command on Redstone Arsenal. We are excited to be partnering with MIT to bring these new offerings to UAH."

The first Lean Academy will be held in Huntsville on

Seminar To Show Alabama Opportunities in China

BIRMINGHAM -- The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Business (UAB), in conjunction with the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Development Office and Haskell Slaughter Young and Rediker, LLC., will present an "Opportunities for Alabama Business in China" seminar from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 28th.

The seminar will be held at the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, 505 North 20th St., Suite 200 in Birmingham. It will cover critical issues for Alabama companies exploring the Chinese market ranging from legal framework to protection of intellectual property to developing a successful business plan for doing business in China.

"Governor Riley is to lead a business development mission to China in July and this seminar comes at an appropriate time as we identify companies and organizations interested in this market place," said ADO Director Neal Wade. "China's economy continues to grow and this provides a strong market for Alabama exports such as plastics, chemicals, medical equipment and industrial machinery."

For more information, contact Bruce Nichols, UAB, at 205-934-8846, brucenichols@uab.edu or Hilda Lockhart, ADO, at 334-242-0442, lockhart@ado.state.al.us

June 5-9th. For more information, visit www.atnlean.com or contact Kenneth Sullivan, co-director of the LAI EdNet Center, at 256-824-2676 or e-mail him at sullivk@uah.edu

Cullman Ranked Fifth In Nation in Site Selection Survey

CULLMAN -- Cullman was ranked as number five in *Site Selection* magazine's "Top 100 Micropolitan Areas for New and Expanding Industries."

Formerly called "Top Small Towns," the Micropolitan Awards honor those communities of 50,000 people or fewer for their ability to secure new and expanded corporate facility projects. Of the 3,142 counties in the United States, the U.S. Census Bureau classifies 674 of them as micropolitan areas because their local economies are largely self-sustaining.

Meetings Raises Awareness Of Trade Importance

MONTGOMERY -- The Alabama Development Office (ADO), in partnership with the Export Alabama Trade Alliance and the Southern Growth Policies Board, is conducting a series of "Trade Boot Camps." The meetings are small group discussion sessions designed to raise awareness of Alabama's place in the competitive global economy and provide objective answers to participant's questions.

Hilda Lockhart, manager of ADO's trade division, said the sessions will also elicit participants' ideas about shaping those policies and collaborative actions to increase the state's share of good jobs in the global marketplace. The first meeting was held in Birmingham this month and other meetings are planned.

The ideas gathered from the Trade Boot Camps, as well as the questions raised, will be summarized in a report to be released by the end of the year. The meetings also will influence the writing of the *2006 Report on the Future of the South*, which will be released at the June 4-7 annual conference of the Southern Growth Policies Board.

For more information on the meetings, contact Mrs. Lockhart at (334) 242-0442.