

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

SEPTEMBER 2018

the businessview



**Team Mobile Travels to
Farnborough to Promote Mobile
Chamber Names Two to
Economic Development Team**

**A Decade of
Economic
Development
Progress**



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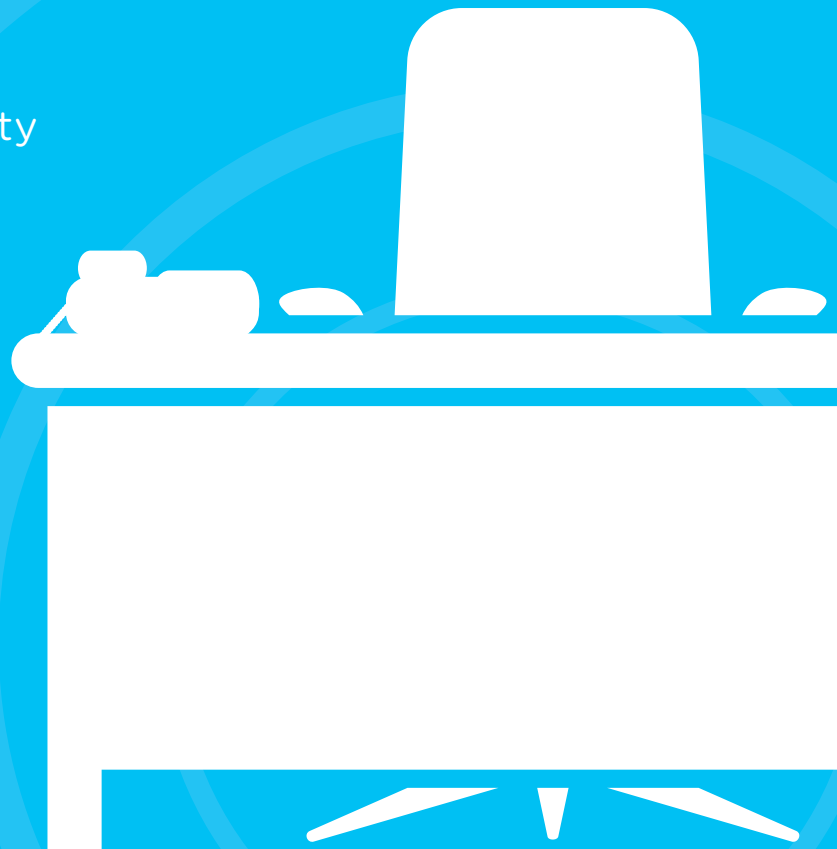
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ON THE COVER

About the cover: Since 2007, there have literally been dozens of economic announcements by local operations expanding and companies moving into the area. We invited CEOs and senior staff to join us for our cover photo. They represent companies investing in the Mobile area and are also members of the Mobile Area Chamber. On pages 17 - 25, we take a look at Mobile on the Grow and a decade of economic development. Photo by Jeff Tesney.



1. Gilbert Diaz, Alabama Roll Products
2. Kevin Allen, Lenzing Fibers
3. David Trent, Airbus Engineering Center
4. Paul Weber, Berg Spiral Pipe
5. Jimmy Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority
6. Billy Duren, Threaded Fasteners
7. Dexter Seng, VT MAE
8. George Parten, Tate & Lyle
9. Mark Bush, SSAB
10. Craig Perciavalle, Austal USA
11. Keith Jones, Prism Systems
12. Monty Hamilton, Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI)
13. Steven Clark, Silver Ships

14. Alan Flint, Evonik
15. Barry Westbrook, Walmart Logistics
16. Michael Skolnik, Continental Motors
17. Jonathan Bujold, Reel USA
18. Steven Franklin, Airbus
19. Andy Walter, Blastech
20. Josh Oakes, Worthington Industries
21. Mark Dodson, FedEx
22. David Myer, Myer Marine Services
23. Brandon Myer, Myer Marine Services
24. Geoff Myrick, MAAS Aviation
25. Greg Guzman, AeroStar

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USA Jags Roar into 10th Season of Football

College Planning on Campus Stadium

“And it’s another South Alabama first down!” If you have been to a University of South Alabama (USA) football game, you know the chant and the celebration from the crowd when the ball moves down the field. On Saturday, Sept. 1, the Jags kick off their 10th football season with a new coach and talk of its own stadium.

The inaugural season blitz came in 2007 from a petition presented by USA students to then-President **Gordon Moulton** in support of football and marching band. (It happened at half-time during a basketball game.) Two months later, the university board of trustees approved the move, and the coin toss on the Jaguar team’s first game was in September 2009 under the leadership of Head Coach **Joey Jones**. **Steve Campbell** replaced Jones after the 2017 season.

“Coach Steve Campbell and his staff bring incredible passion and enthusiasm,” says **Travis**

Toth, senior associate athletic director, who handles external affairs and marketing for the Jags.

All games will be shown this fall on the new ESPN+ streaming service.

June. The new stadium, located where the intramural fields are, will hold 25,000 spectators and will cost approximately \$72 million.

on-campus stadium is the next step for exponential growth at USA. “What’s good for the university is good for the community,” he says.

In just its sixth year of competition, South became the fastest FBS program (formally known as NCAA Division I) to be invited to a bowl game when the Jags played in the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl in 2014. The Jags are one of 10 football teams in the Sun Belt Conference.

“Our football program has expanded opportunities for hundreds of students, and that shouldn’t be overlooked,” says Waldrop. “At the same time, having a football program – and a marching band – most definitely enhances student life at our university. It also makes us more attractive to prospective students, and we’ve found that more alumni are reconnecting with South because of the Jaguar football program.”



Even under the most aggressive schedule, the earliest fans could be watching their team in a new stadium on campus would be 2020, according to a university resolution. USA trustees authorized President **Tony Waldrop** to “execute the necessary agreements to begin site work for construction” in

The Mobile Area Chamber’s board of directors passed its own resolution in June in support of the effort as well, supporting the redevelopment and investment of the current site of Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

Chamber President & CEO **Bill Sisson** believes an

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Could Mobile's Airport Move Downtown to Brookley?

Results of an airport feasibility study created nonstop media coverage and were the primary topic of community conversations for several weeks this summer.

In June, the Mobile Airport Authority (MAA) discussed results of the study and potentially switching the roles between the downtown and Mobile Regional airports at a media conference.

"Changing roles of the airports will allow us to attract better air service and retain a great share of users that should be using our airport," said **Chris Curry**, the MAA's executive director. "The only way to drive the cost of fares down in our community is to create competition, increase

destinations and provide better access."

The feasibility study included the four airport choices passengers have within a 120-mile region for travel and how choices are made; Mobile's current share of passengers; a 10-year traffic forecast; how to drive flight costs down; and infrastructure needed.

Currently, 47 percent of the passengers in the MAA catchment area are going to other airports, including New Orleans, Gulfport-Biloxi and Pensacola.

Curry said the move to Brookley increases access to Baldwin County's 138,000 passengers that MAA doesn't have at Regional. He also stressed the importance of the Mobile

River I-10 bridge to further reduce travel time from Baldwin County to Brookley.

Curry made a point to say that the major tenants at Brookley would remain.

While no specific investment was mentioned, the

study concluded moving commercial operations downtown was a "cheaper

option" when compared to building a new access road to Mobile Regional Airport.

The next step came when the MAA board voted to approve the study and its findings, also in June, authorizing Curry to pursue a master plan to finalize details and costs. Curry estimated the master plan would take 12 to 18 months and its findings would cover the next 20 years of airport development, existing facilities, future forecast, potential layouts and the environmental impact of making Brookley a commercial airport.

"This process will not happen overnight," he said. We expect it to take three to five years."

"The only way to drive the cost of fares down in our community is to create competition, increase destinations and provide better access."

Chris Curry
Mobile Airport Authority

Mobile Symphony Sounds the Trumpet

Mobile audiences will continue to be wowed by **Scott Speck's** musical talents. Speck extended his tenure as the Mobile Symphony's music director for another three years.

He joined the symphony in 2000, and is key to the symphony becoming one of Mobile's flagship arts organizations with an orchestra packed with the best talents from throughout the Gulf Coast, according to **Celia Mann Baehr**, president and CEO.

"Every season, the orchestra that comes to meet me is at a higher level of artistry than the previous year. As a result, we have the luxury of programming the world's greatest masterpieces, completely without regard to their technical challenges. The Mobile Symphony is an orchestra of great virtuosos, and I am so excited to show them off," said Speck.



"Scott's passion for music and his connection with the musicians and audience have helped us become one of the nation's best regional orchestras," said Mann Baehr. "We're pleased his leadership will continue as we offer our region

a world-class concert experience very close to home."

His gala performances with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Evelyn Glennie and Olga Kern highlight Speck's years in Mobile. This season opens Wednesday, Sept.

12 with another world-renowned musical star – Renée Fleming, an American opera singer and soprano.

"The Mobile Symphony's 2018-2019 season is our most ambitious yet," Speck noted. "From the glory of Renée Fleming's luscious voice to the jaw-dropping pyrotechnics of Vadim Gluzman's violin, from the spectacle of Respighi's Roman Festivals to the passion and fervor of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony, our season offers an uplifting and exhilarating experience unlike anything else on the Gulf Coast."

Speck also holds positions as music director of Chicago's Joffrey Ballet, the Chicago Philharmonic and West Michigan Symphony.

MSO season details and ticket information are available at www.mobilesymphony.org.



Team Mobile Travels to Farnborough Air Show

A small delegation representing the City of Mobile, Mobile County, Mobile Area Chamber, Mobile Airport Authority and the University of South Alabama traveled this summer to London to participate in the bi-annual Farnborough Air Show. Over the course of three days, members of Team Mobile participated in more than 15 one-on-one meetings with industries already established in Mobile and their suppliers, as well as with several potential new investors in this market.

Also, a group traveled to Broughton in northern England to tour the Airbus wing manufacturing facility, and hosted more than 150 aerospace executives during a reception attended by Gov. **Kay Ivey**, Airbus President **Tom Enders** and Airbus America's President **Jeff Knittel**.



CJ Small, Mobile City Council; Nick Lawkis with USA; Mayor Sandy Stimpson; Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson; and Fred Richardson, Mobile City Council, attended the Farnborough Air Show.

"There is no place, and I really mean it, that has been so supportive all these years like Alabama, and Mobile in Alabama," said Enders during his remarks to reception attendees. Though he is retiring in 2019 from the company, Enders spoke to attendees on a


variety of topics including how Mobile went from a location to build tankers, to the engineering center, to the final assembly line and the company's future investment in Mobile.

In speaking on the Airbus 220, through a partnership with Bombardier, Enders added,

"Everyone understands how important Mobile is for a global aerospace company – Airbus. And as you have seen in recent months, we doubled down in Mobile, Alabama."

For more than a decade the Mobile Area Chamber has led a team of economic development partners to attend the bi-annual show. Goals for the show are to set appointments with key industry executives, network with potential aerospace suppliers and host a well-attended reception. **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development for the Chamber, said this year's event exceeded expectations, and there is a lot of global interest in Mobile, especially now with the A220 coming on-line next year.

"This year validated that Mobile is in an excellent spot for future aerospace growth," he added.

You'll see this symbol  with stories featuring Chamber initiatives.



Members of Team Mobile traveled to Broughton to view the Airbus's wing facility.



Courtney Finegar, editor of FDI magazine (left) met with Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Mobile Area Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson while in London for the air show.



McFadden Engineering is expanding its business model to include an innovative wastewater treatment and reuse system. Pictured from left to right are Frank McFadden, Hope McFadden and Brad Newton.

McFadden Engineering Goes With the Flow

Bigger isn't always better. Thirty years ago, **Hope** and **Frank McFadden** had a vision for a smaller, more flexible engineering firm that could offer its clients a personal touch along with the expertise of larger firms.

Specializing in water and wastewater, stream modeling and groundwater remediation engineering, McFadden Engineering Inc. (MEI) has been building strong client relationships over the past three decades, which has kept the business growing even as it maintains a small staff of 10.

McFadden Engineering is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

"Not many firms our size can offer full-scale environmental services as well as provide civil engineering design capabilities," said Hope, the firm's vice

president and chief financial officer. "Our staff is comprised of engineers, geologists and technicians who are experienced in their fields and work as a tightly knit team to meet the expectations of our clients."

"Many people would look at the size of our firm as a disadvantage, but we see it as a positive because our highly trained professionals can closely collaborate to handle the work while developing relationships with our clients."

Even though it's small, McFadden's team brings nearly a century of combined experience in civil and environmental engineering, with engineers and geologists who are licensed in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

And now, McFadden

Engineering is taking on a new challenge. The firm has developed an innovative wastewater treatment and reuse system called OxyShark, a response to clients' needs for a cost-effective, space-saving system that's environmentally sound with an excellent return on investment.

"We have always enjoyed solving challenging environmental problems, no matter the size or scope of the project," said Frank, the firm's founder and president.

"We saw a need to develop a wastewater treatment process that would be small in relative size to a typical system, provide highly treated water from certain waste streams, be simple to operate and deliver industry-leading return on investment. Through this vision, the patent-pending OxyShark process was born."

He believes the firm's movement into the manufacturing sector with the development of OxyShark will bring additional jobs and recognition to Mobile.

"We would like to help put Mobile on the map as an environmentally proactive city, showcasing innovative solutions that provide excellent quality of life," Hope said. "Our entry into wastewater manufacturing will provide a vehicle for growing both MEI and OxyShark while offering sound and sustainable solutions to the use of one of our major natural resources – water."

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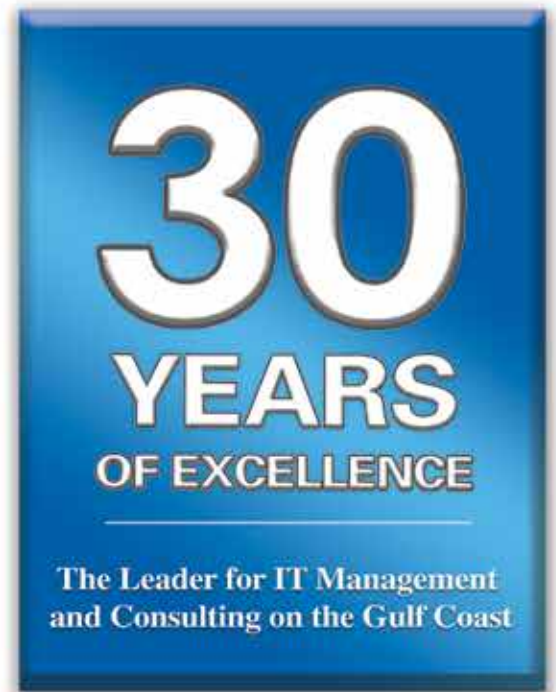
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Warren Averett LLC

Company officials: Phillip Rivers CPA, managing member, Mobile office

Years in business: 45 years

Brief company description: With more than 800 employees, Warren Averett is one of the largest certified public accounting firms in Alabama,

the Gulf Coast and the Southeast. Since the firm was founded in Birmingham in 1972, many predecessors have since merged with the company. Since its inception, its footprint has grown to include 15 offices throughout Alabama, Florida and Georgia, as well as affiliate offices in Texas and the Cayman Islands.

Why are you located in Mobile?

“Warren Averett has expanded in size and geography in order to add value for our clients and opportunity for our people,” said Rivers. “We opened the Mobile office in 2015 to better serve our clients in south Alabama. With our global reach, we are able to provide valuable solutions to not only

local businesses in the area, but also to large international companies which are headquartered in Mobile.”

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce’s Partners for Growth initiative? “Having a strong business community impacts all aspects of life in Mobile – from a business perspective and personal life,” said Rivers. “I grew up in Mobile and know how wonderful our city is. As a Partner for Growth, I’m excited to have the opportunity to help others see that as well. The strength of our business community is important, so helping companies and organizations thrive will strengthen our entire community for years to come.”

What do you see as Mobile’s greatest potential? “With technology advancements and access to the port, there is tremendous opportunity to attract more international businesses than ever before,” said Rivers.

Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 2015



Warren Averett is located in the heart of downtown Mobile on Royal Street. Pictured from left to right are members of the accounting firm: Neil Christopher, Phillip Rivers, (managing member of the Mobile office), Anna Goldman and Dylan Day.



Partners for Growth (PFG) is the Mobile Area Chamber’s long-term economic and community development program. For more information, contact **Natalie Franklin**, the Chamber’s investor relations manager, at **251-431-8636** or **nfranklin@mobilechamber.com**.

International Aerospace Conference Comes to Mobile



The inaugural Southeast Aerospace and Defence Conference, hosted by AirFinance Journal, was held in Mobile in June. The goal of the conference was to bring together suppliers, Original Equipment Manufacturers, aerospace companies, financiers and investors. Mobile Area Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson was on a panel of local and state economic development representatives across the Southeast to discuss the developing aerospace clusters in their specific areas. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey was the keynote speaker at the networking dinner. She highlighted the continued growth of the industry across the state. The Chamber was given the opportunity to have a table display throughout the conference to showcase the region in front of both existing and prospective companies. 



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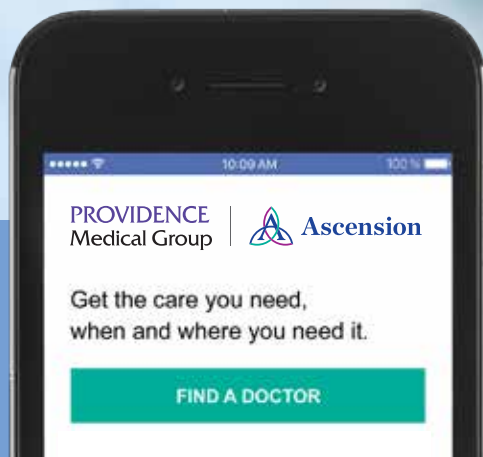
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Company: Mobile Arts and Sports Association/Reese's Senior Bowl

Title: Executive Director

Hometown: Traverse City, Mich.

Education: Nagy has a bachelor's degree in sports management and communications from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

First job: He cleaned fish at a seafood restaurant at age 13 and also worked in cherry orchards in high school, where his hometown is recognized as the cherry capital of the world.

Previous experience: Nagy spent 18 years scouting in the National Football League for the Green Bay Packers, Washington Redskins, New England Patriots, Kansas City Chiefs and Seattle Seahawks. He also worked as a sports agent in New York City for four years.

Accomplishments: He was a part of six Super Bowls and won four Super Bowl rings.


Secret to success: "Treat people well, never stop learning, don't take yourself too seriously, and work your butt off. Find something you're passionate about and figure out a way to make a living out of it."

Brief company description:

The Mobile Arts and Sports Association is the parent organization of the Senior Bowl. As America's premier college football all-star game featuring outstanding senior players from across the country, the game week itself serves as an "unofficial" NFL convention, with more than 800 coaches, scouts and representatives from member clubs in attendance to evaluate and interview prospects for the upcoming draft in April. The Senior Bowl sponsors several community-related events throughout the year and has donated \$7.8 million dollars to youth-related charities along the Gulf Coast.

Jim Nagy





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MOBILE'S on the Grow

Full of Southern charm and hospitality, Mobile gives rise to countless business opportunities. Over the last decade, Mobile's economic development efforts garnered \$8.1 billion in capital investment and 14,341 jobs at new and existing area companies.

Just as impressive as our growing business community is our quality of life. Mobile is a picturesque city at the mouth of the Mobile River and edge of Mobile Bay, leading to the Gulf of Mexico. Our streets are lined with massive live oaks, and outdoor activities can be enjoyed year-round thanks to our warm, sunny climate.

Founded in 1702, Mobile is one of the oldest cities in the United States. Our rich history is matched with a fast-growing, modern community focused on the future.



MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A Decade of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Looking Back

***Editor's note:** As we planned this issue of The Business View, we thought it would be interesting to take a look at the economic development announcements made over the last decade, locating them on a map of Mobile County.*

Before you turn the page, we invite you to take a quick walk down memory lane remembering some of our biggest victories, and some lesser known stories we found as we culled through our records.

Over the last decade, you've heard about nearly 100 Chamber-recruited projects, be it a new company or industry expansion. With their news, collectively came **14,386** direct jobs and **\$8.1 billion** in capital investments.

Along the way, the success stories came from names we recognize and a few we learned quickly.

For example, in 2007, **ThyssenKrupp's** historic \$3.7 billion investment for a new, state-of-the-art steel mill in north Mobile County (now owned by **AM/NS Calvert** and **Outokumpu**) was at the time, lauded as the largest private investment made in the U.S. Since purchasing the steel operations, AM/NS has made \$118 million in capital investments to expand the facility. Jointly, AM/NS and Outokumpu employ 2,455 people.

Austal USA expanded four times over the last 10 years, adding 3,700

jobs. In addition to the current 4,300-plus employees and multiple capital spending outlays, there is tremendous pride in saying U.S. Navy warships are made in Mobile.

The **Kimberly-Clark** investment in 2010 was labeled one of the area's first major retention projects – meaning the \$50 million investment secured the mill's future. The company made two additional key announcements, one in 2017 and another this April – sure signs the Mobile facility is a strong asset to KC's future.

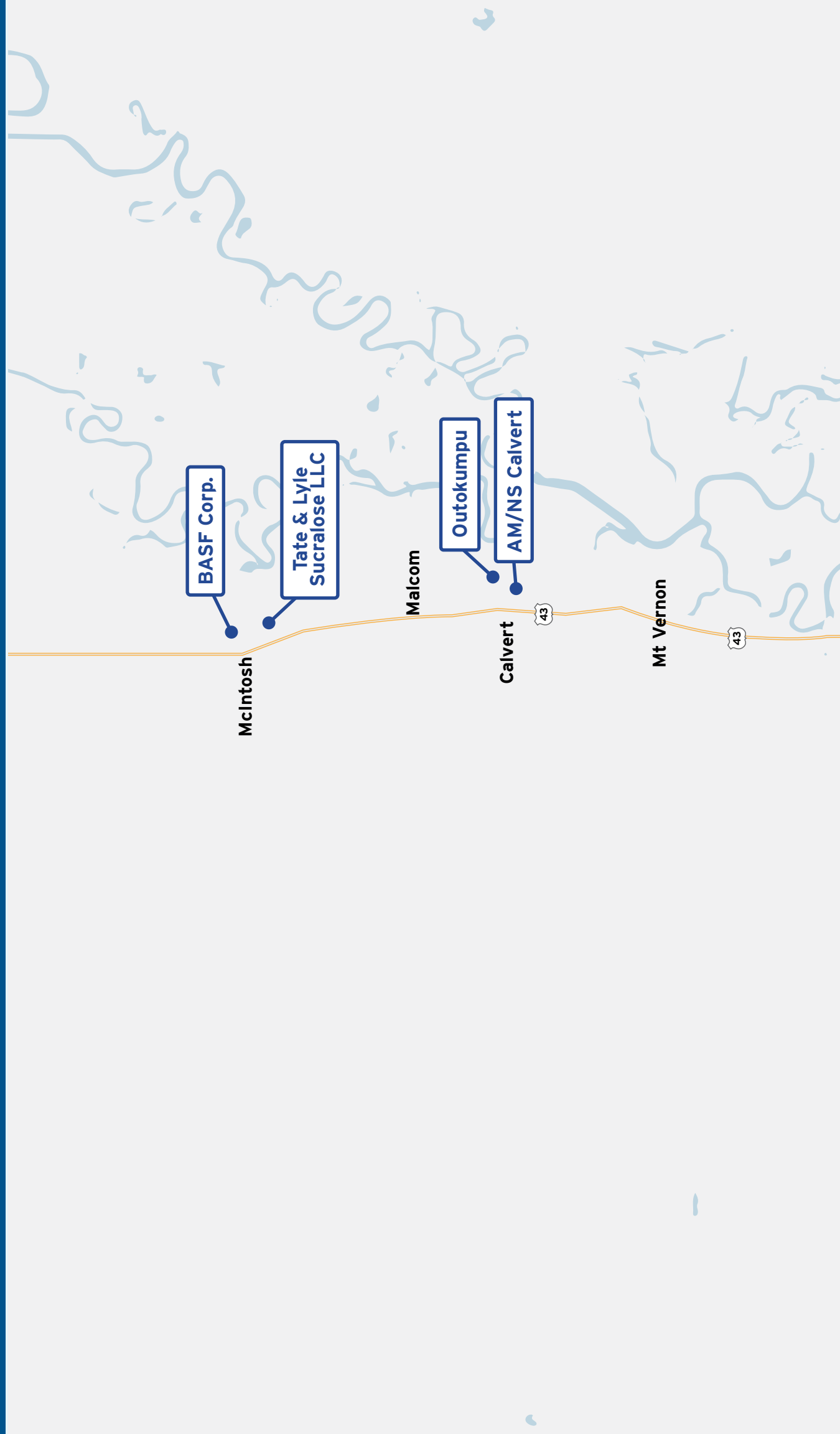
And in the middle of a hard-fought battle to win a U.S. Air Force Tanker Refueling Aircraft contract, the **Airbus Engineering Center** was announced in 2010, creating 200 engineering jobs. As many remember, Mobile and Airbus eventually lost the project and got what some say was the "better end of the deal" when Airbus opened its Final Assembly Line for commercial aircraft. The company's footprint and number of employees are expected to double with the recent acquisition of a majority stake in Bombardier's C Series aircraft.

What was surprising was the number of companies that made multiple announcements – including undersea umbilical manufacturer **Aker Solutions** and **Evonik's** effort creating a park where companies can feed off the byproducts each creates.

Mobile Area ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

2007 -PRESENT

Listed here are only the Chamber-member companies that have invested in new locations and/or expansions.





Representing manufacturing, steel, chemical, maritime and aerospace industries, Mobile's economy is strongly diversified.

In 2014, the technology industry achieved a major coup when the software development company **Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI)** committed to create 100 high-tech jobs in downtown Mobile. The company helped start the development of the "technology corridor" and resides in the renovated Buick building on St. Louis Street.

Following its purchase of Mobile-based Scotch Gulf Lumber, Canadian-based **Canfor Southern Pine** moved its headquarters to Mobile in 2016, spurring the first of several headquarters announcements such as SSAB's commitment to move its American home office to complement its steel mill in Axis.

Last year, **Continental Motors**, an aircraft engine company here since the 1960s, recommitted to Mobile as its global headquarters and announced it would build a new facility at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. Two days later,

Walmart announced it would build direct import distribution center to serve its other distribution centers along the central Gulf Coast – only five others existed previously. In early summer, **Amazon's** sortation center announcement upped our "coolness" factor among younger generations who grew up with the online retailer.

Also on the list are Mobile-based companies like **AeroStar**, **Myer Marine** and **Prism Systems** that could operate almost anywhere but choose Mobile as home.

As you look at the map on the foldout and the list of new and expanding projects, the variety and scope help diversify the local economy, which equals strength for the long haul.

As **Bill Sisson**, the Mobile Area Chamber's president & CEO, said in a 2018 video, "We can't wait to show you what's next."

Mobile's INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

AVERAGE SALARY
OF JOBS CREATED
\$56,323

These are the results of the Mobile Area Chamber's economic development efforts over the past decade.

30 NEW
BUSINESSES
RECRUITED




14,386 NEW JOBS
CREATED




10TH LARGEST PORT
BY VOLUME IN THE U.S.



\$8.1 BILLION IN CAPITAL
INVESTMENTS AT
NEW & EXISTING COMPANIES



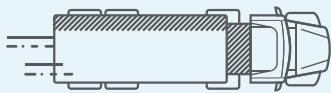
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5 CLASS 1 RAILROADS



NEW INDUSTRIES AND EXPANSIONS Over the Last Decade

Companies included below are members of the Mobile Area Chamber as of July 31, 2018.

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AeroStar

2248 Michigan Ave.
Aviation Technology

Airbus

320 Airbus Way
Aircraft Manufacturing

Airbus Engineering Center

1801 S. Broad St.
Aerospace Engineering

Aker Solutions Inc.

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Oil Field Service

Alabama Roll Products

5350 Laurendine Rd.
Steel Fabricators

Alabama State Port Authority

250 N. Water St., Ste. 300
Port Operators

Alabama Steel Terminals LLC

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Terminals - River & Marine

All Plastics & Fiberglass Inc.

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AM/NS Calvert

1 AMNS Way, Calvert
Steel Manufacturing

Amazon.com Services Inc.

6455 Trippel Rd.
Warehousing

AMVAC Chemical Corp.

12650 U.S. Hwy. 43 N.
Chemicals

APM Terminals Mobile LLC

901 Ezra Trice Blvd.
Stevedoring Contractors

Arc Controls Inc.

4875 Tufts Rd.
Vessels - Fabrication & Repair

Arkema Inc.

13755 U.S. Hwy. 43 N.
Chemicals

Austal USA

100 Addisco Rd.
Shipbuilding

BASF Corp.

1379 Ciba Rd.
Chemicals

BASF

(formerly Bayer CropScience)
4201 Degussa Rd.
Chemicals

Berg Spiral Pipe Corp.

900 Paper Mill Rd.
Steel Manufacturing

Blastech Mobile LLC

12400 U.S. Hwy. 43 N.
Blasting & Painting

Buchanan Lumber Mobile Inc.

104 Industrial Canal Rd. E.
Lumber

Canfor Southern Pine

101 Dauphin St., Ste. 600
Lumber & Headquarters

Continental Motors Inc.

2039 Broad St.
Aircraft Engines

Danby Products Inc.

252 Jacintoport Blvd.
Appliance - Household/Dealer

Evonik Corp.

4201 Evonik Rd.
Chemical

FedEx

840 Lakeside Dr.
Transportation Services

FMC

12660 U.S. Hwy. 43
Chemicals

Harrison Brothers Dry Dock & Repair Yard Inc.

275A Cochran Causeway
Land Leasing

Kimberly-Clark

200 Bay Bridge Rd.
Paper Products

Krispy Mixes Inc.

6341 U.S. Hwy. 90 W.
Food Ingredient Manufacturer

Lenzing Fibers Inc.

12950 U.S. Hwy. 43 N.
Manufacturing

MAAS Aviation

321 Airbus Way
Aviation Technology

Masland Carpets LLC

716 Bill Myles Dr.
Carpet & Rug Manufacturer

Millard Maritime

7730 Deer River Rd.
Terminals - River & Marine

Myer Marine Services

744 Blackburn Dr.
Steel Fabricators

Outokumpu

1 Steel Dr.
Steel Manufacturing

Praxair

4101 Hamilton Blvd.
Gases Industrial - Medical - Bulk

Prism Systems Inc.

200 Virginia St.
Engineering Services

REEL USA Corp.

1890 Third St.
Crane Service

Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI)

455 St. Louis St.
Software Development

Silver Ships

9243 Bellingrath Rd.
Boat Builders

SSAB Americas

12400 U.S. Hwy. 43 N.
Steel Manufacturing & Headquarters

Tate & Lyle Sucralose LLC

588 Industrial Rd.
Food Ingredient Manufacturer

Technip

7323 Dauphin Island Pkwy.
Subsea Construction

Threaded Fasteners Inc.

3200 Crichton St.
Fasteners-Distributor

UOP LLC, A Honeywell Co.

1 Linde Dr.
Chemicals

VT MAE

2100 Aerospace Dr.
Aerospace MRO

Walmart Logistics

8725 County Farm Rd.
Warehousing

Williams

8106 Dauphin Island Pkwy.
Gas-Natural

World Marine

601 S. Royal St
Marine Services

Worthington Industries

4075 Hamilton Blvd.
Manufacturing

Xanté Corp.

2800 Dauphin St., Ste. 100
Printer Manufacturer



The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce is the lead economic developer for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. Much of our economic success is attributed to the collaborative efforts of Team Mobile – a group of city and county officials, Alabama State Port Authority, Mobile Airport Authority, local utility and educational entities, and the Chamber.

According to an economic impact study by Auburn University at Montgomery, Mobile has the most diverse economy in Alabama. Our current industry clusters include aviation/aerospace, chemical, healthcare, information technology, maritime, logistics/distribution, oil and gas, and steel.

The following companies are among the most recent to announce new or additional investment, and statistics measure results from 2007 to 2018.

Editor's Note: This is an annual publication updated by the Mobile Area Chamber and shared with prospective economic development clients and regional, national and international media.

AeroStar

Aviation Technology

www.aerostar.aero

The Mobile-based aircraft maintenance repair company is more than doubling its footprint and employees to accommodate its growing workload. AeroStar performs maintenance on Airbus, Boeing and Bombardier platforms.

Airbus

Aircraft Manufacturing

www.airbus.com

Following the acquisition of a majority stake in the Bombardier C Series aircraft, Airbus will create a second final assembly line in Mobile. The company also delivered its first U.S.-built aircraft with the new engine option (NEO), offering customers a quieter and more fuel-efficient plane. Mobile is the fourth city in the world and the only city in the U.S. to assemble the A320 aircraft family.

Aker

Oilfield Services

www.akersolutions.com

The company is relocating engineering, human resources and accounting positions to Mobile. In addition, Aker is making a capital investment in its umbilicals manufacturing operations to meet the demands of its global customer base.

Amazon

Warehousing

www.amazon.com

Amazon's first investment in Alabama was a sortation center in Mobile. More than a million packages a month have the Mob5 label, indicating they came through Mobile.

AM/NS Calvert

Steel Manufacturing

www.usa.arcelormittal.com

The joint venture of ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corp. increased its slab yard storage area and invested in technologies for high-strength steel. The company produces 5.3 million tons of flat rolled carbon steel products annually for the automotive, construction and other industries.

APM Terminals

Stevedoring Contractors

www.apmterminals.com

Phase three of five planned expansions is underway, including the addition of two super-Post Panamax and two Post-Panamax ship-to-shore cranes. When completed, the container port will accommodate 650,000 TEUs annually.

Austal USA

Shipbuilding

www.austal.com

Austal has delivered nine Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) and nine Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels (EPF) to the U.S. Navy from its shipyard at the Port of Mobile. Currently, there are seven LCS and three EPF ships in various phases of construction, enough to guarantee the current workforce through 2022.

BASF (formerly Bayer Crop Science)

Chemicals

www.cropscience.bayer.com

The company moved into the Mobile market, co-locating at Evonik's Mobile facility to use an Evonik chemical to produce BASF's agricultural herbicide.

Canfor Southern Pine

Lumber

www.canfor.com

Canfor recently located its U.S. headquarters to Mobile. The lumber company also has a sawmill located in Mobile.



Continental Motors Group

Aircraft Engines

www.continentalmotors.aero

The company announced plans to build a 260,000-square-foot state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and corporate office. The news was part of Continental's re-commitment to Mobile as its corporate global headquarters.

Evonik Corp.

Chemicals

www.evonik.com

The company recently expanded its production and established a chemical park where companies can benefit from the by-products of Evonik. Recently, the park drew a new product line operation with BASF.

Hutchinson

Aerospace

www.hutchinson.com

With an initial facility estimated between 21,000 and 35,000 square feet, Hutchinson's plans for an Aerospace Manufacturing Center of Excellence in Mobile could expand up to 65,000 square feet.

Kimberly-Clark

Paper Products

www.kimberly-clark.com

In a year's time, the company announced two significant investments: The first for an on-site heat and power plant, and the second to replace a tissue machine, add a converting line and expand its recycled fiber facility.

Lenzing Fibers

Woven Textiles

www.lenzing.com

Once the company finalizes building a new facility on site, it will be the largest production site of TENCEL® in the world

with anticipated production of 90,000 tons per year of the woven fiber used in clothing, sheets, baby wipes and other personal and industrial applications.

MAAS Aviation

Aviation Technology

www.maasaviation.com

The company completed a twin-bay paint shop facility dedicated to maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO). The facility is an addition to the hangar MAAS set up initially at the Airbus Final Assembly Line.

Millard Maritime

Maritime Terminals

www.millardmaritime.com

The port facility located in south Mobile County is expanding its conveyance system for salt used to de-ice roads and parking lots. Millard's services include container stripping and loading, in-house stevedoring and export/import capabilities.

Prism Systems

Software Development

www.prismsystems.com

Driving this Mobile-based company's expansion is a new research and development lab. Prism creates the systems control software for Fortune 500 companies and other customers in energy, food and beverage, entertainment, government, oil and gas, pulp and paper, education and more.

Safran USA

Aviation Nacelles

www.safran-usa.com

The manufacturing operation will produce and install aircraft engine nacelles, the housing for an aircraft engine and its related components. The company built out a 24,500-square-foot bay at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.

SSAB

Steel Manufacturing

www.ssab.us

The company is moving its U.S. division's head office to Mobile. SSAB's manufacturing facility in Axis produces quenched and tempered steel plate used in automobiles, elevator buckets and other manufacturing and construction sectors.

Threaded Fasteners

Industrial Components

www.threadedfastenersinc.com

The company is building a galvanizing facility, and recently expanded its Mobile operations. Threaded Fasteners manufactures bolts and specialty headed products for maritime, industrial/chemical, transportation, construction, utility and original equipment manufacturer customers.

Walmart

Warehousing

www.walmart.com

The company opened its newest direct import distribution center in Mobile in August 2018. The 2.5 million-square-foot facility will stock Walmart's other distribution centers along the central Gulf Coast.

Worthington Industries

Cryogenic Technology

www.worthingtonindustries.com

Following the company's purchase of Taylor Wharton's cryoscience business, Worthington announced plans to move its manufacturing of transport trailer production to Mobile.

MOBILE-AREA MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Employers by Full-time Employee Count

Product or Industry

4,000-plus employees

Austal *
Infirmary Health System
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Mobile County Public Schools
University of South Alabama & Medical Facilities

Shipbuilding
Healthcare
Shipbuilding
K-12 Public Education
Education/Healthcare

3,999 - 3000 employees

Baldwin County Board of Education

Education

2,999 - 1,000 employees

AM/NS Calvert *
Chevron Refinery
City of Mobile
CPSI
Mobile County
Providence Hospital
Springhill Medical Center
VT MAE *

Steel
Oil
Local Government
Software
Local Government
Healthcare
Healthcare
Maintenance & Repair

999 - 500 employees

Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility *
Alabama Power
Alorica/EGS
AltaPointe
AT&T
Evonik Corp. *
G.A. West & Co.
Kimberly-Clark Corp.
Outokumpu Stainless USA *
PCA Jackson Mill
PCH Hotels & Resorts
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
SSAB Americas *
Walmart Import Distribution Center

Aerospace
Utility
Inbound Call Center
Healthcare
Utility
Chemicals
Industrial Construction
Paper
Steel
Paper
Tourism
Tribal Government
Steel
Distribution

499 - 250 employees

Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic
Alabama State Port Authority
BASF *
Bishop State Community College
Cardiology Associates
Coastal Alabama Community College
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
Continental Motors *
Fresenius Medical Care
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors
Mobile Area Water & Sewer System
Olin Corp.*
Premier Medical
Regions Bank
Saad Healthcare
Southeast Toyota Finance
Spring Hill College
The Hiller Cos.
The SSI Group
Thompson Engineering
UOP Honeywell

Healthcare
Maritime/Transportation
Chemicals
Education
Healthcare
Education
Food Services
Aerospace Engines
Healthcare
Engineering
Utility
Chemicals
Healthcare
Financial
Healthcare
Inbound/Outbound Call Center
Education
Fire Systems & Safety
Software
Engineering
Chemicals

MOBILE'S WORKFORCE TALENT POOL

Mobile's growing business community counts on a strong, talented and dedicated workforce. There are a number of resources and programs to ensure local residents have the skills area employers need.

Among the most recognized state-led training programs in the country, AIDT offers comprehensive pre-employment selection and on-the-job-training, specific to a qualifying company's needs. In Mobile, AIDT operates the Alabama Aviation Training Center, AIDT Maritime Training Center and the Erich Heine Learning Center (focused on steel manufacturing).

There are also numerous community colleges, training centers and apprenticeship programs. Twelve signature academies with career-oriented curricula based on current and projected job openings operate at Mobile County public high schools.



* Mobile has long been recognized for its foreign direct investment. The asterisk by 10 of the 50 major employers represents those based outside the U.S.



EASY ACCESS TO NORTH AMERICA AND WORLD MARKETS

By land, by air or by sea – you can get here from anywhere.

Mobile is the largest Gulf Coast city between New Orleans and Tampa. A few interesting notes about our water economy: the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta is the second largest delta in the U.S., Mobile Bay is the fourth largest estuary in the nation and Mobile Bay holds the second largest natural gas reserve in the world.

LAGNIAPPE

(a little something extra)



A growing business community with a skilled workforce and unmatched infrastructure and logistics make Mobile an undeniable choice for your company's new location or expansion.

Our friendliness, historic character, abundance of cultural and recreational activities, and low cost of living make Mobile a place anyone would want to call home.



Here are a few things that make us unique:

Mobile is the birthplace of modern-day Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S.

The Duffee Oak is a 300-plus-year-old tree, and one of 3,000 live oaks more than 100 years old in the city.

The University of South Alabama has the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the region and its Mitchell Cancer Institute is the only academic cancer research center in the upper Gulf Coast region.



Mobile was founded by the French in 1702. The city has also flown under the flags of Spain and Britain, in addition to the United States.

The Dollar General Bowl, Reese's Senior Bowl, Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, Dauphin Island Regatta, Azalea Trail Run and the Distinguished Young Women scholarship program all call Mobile home. In addition, regional golf is among the nation's finest with more than 25 courses.



Mobile is known as the Azalea City thanks to Frise Langlois, who first brought the bright pink blossoms here from his father's garden in Toulouse, France, in 1754.

Cureton and Morgan Join Chamber Economic Development Team

Colton Cureton is the new project manager of the business development division of the Mobile Area Chamber's economic development department. He will support the division's activities, including staffing various committees, representing projects to the City of Mobile Industrial Development Board and the Mobile County Industrial Development Authority, and actively working business and industrial projects.

"Mobile is a prosperous city that has so much to offer citizens," Cureton said. "Its diverse interstate, rail, airport and port system make Mobile an ideal location for a company representing any industry."

At Troy University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's



Cureton

degree in public administration, he worked as a graduate assistant for Troy University Online, a personnel analyst intern for the city-county of Montgomery and an internal analyst intern for the City of Dothan.

Most recently, he was project manager for Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) Alabama Works in Mobile.

"Colton's analytic work and experience with SAWDC has prepared him well to continue the economic development work here at the Chamber, and we are very fortunate to have him," said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

Cureton can be reached at 251-431-8650 or ccureton@mobilechamber.com.

The Mobile Area Chamber named **Kayla Morgan** marketing and research manager in the Chamber's economic development department. She is responsible for collecting and analyzing data, developing and publishing a wide array of community and state research documents, updating marketing materials and responding to information requests.

"I think it's incredible to have such a strong resource here in Mobile that is so dedicated to helping the businesses in our community," Morgan said. "Mobile is growing, and the Chamber plays a huge part in making that happen."

She recently graduated from the University of South Alabama (USA) with a degree in business administration with



Morgan

a concentration in marketing management while working as a marketing intern for USA Office of Marketing and Communications.

Before that, she was a store manager for Marble Slab Creamery & Great American Cookie, head coach for Mobile Storm Volleyball Club and later Southbound orientation leader and student assistant at USA's Mitchell College of Business.

"Kayla hit the ground running when she got to the Chamber, ready and focused," said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development. "We welcome her energy as well as her skills."

Morgan can be reached at 251-431-8602 or kmorgan@mobilechamber.com.

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Talking Tariffs with Members

Kellie Hope, the Chamber's vice president for community and governmental affairs, has been listening to members with concerns about the steel and aluminum tariffs announced against Canada, Mexico and the European Union, and then communicating those concerns with the offices of Rep. Bradley Byrne, Sen. Richard Shelby and Sen. Doug Jones. There are significant concerns over a possible trade war, which will have negative implications on our Port City.

Member Ribbon Cuttings and Grand Openings

Chamber staff and ambassadors helped cut ribbons and celebrate grand openings at Murphy USA, Airport 1 Self Storage, Raceway, Humana and The Ruby Slipper Café. For more information on having the Chamber help with your upcoming event, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649.

Economic Development Team Hits Trade Shows

This summer, Shelby Glover, senior project manager, and Christina Stimpson, director of international trade in the Chamber's economic development department, attended the Select USA Investment Summit to promote international investment. The Chamber partnered with the Alabama State Port Authority and Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance to host a booth at the conference.

New Board of Advisors Named

The Chamber has announced several new Board of Advisors members, bringing the number to 253. They are Flexible Benefits, Rayford & Associates and Stewart & Whatley Builders. To learn more about this group of influential members, contact Carolyn Golson at 251-431-8622 or cgolson@mobilechamber.com.

Chamber Hosts Listening Session for Small Business Owners

In the first stop on a statewide listening tour, Bruce LeVell (center of the photo below) of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy led a roundtable discussion addressing the challenges facing small businesses today.

Attendees were given an opportunity to provide feedback to help LeVell's office voice small business concerns from the region to the White House, federal agencies and Congress. More than 50 small business owners and advocates attended.



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Make-A-Wish Alabama

Make-A-Wish Alabama is one of 62 federated chapters of Make-A-Wish America created with a vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a critical illness. Since its inception in September 2012 to better serve the children and families of Alabama, the organization has granted more than 600 wishes alone in Alabama. It is believed a wish

experience can be a game-changer.

Pictured above (left to right) are: Candice York, Make-A-Wish Alabama volunteer; Alyssa Gipson, Make-A-Wish recipient and Laurel Flower, Make-A-Wish Alabama volunteer. Gipson's wish was for a tree house art studio that was built in her backyard.

AMBASSADOR of the month



Photo by Jeff Tesney

As assistant community director for Stone Ridge by Somerby Apartment Homes, **Jordan Henderson** is responsible for accounts payable and receivable for the property.

She became a Chamber ambassador in December of 2017, and is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month.

"Taking on the ambassador role allows me to spotlight Mobile in a positive way and create that 'Would you look at that?' moment for anyone interested in Mobile," Henderson says.

Ambassadors are volunteers who support the Mobile Area Chamber by visiting members and assisting with events and ribbon-cuttings. To learn more, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Holiday Inn Mobile West I-10 Grand Reopening



Holiday Inn Mobile West I-10 located at I-10 and highway 90 West exit 15B, is celebrating it's Grand Reopening this month after completing a 5-million-dollar total hotel make over!

All 159 guest rooms, 3000 square feet of meeting space, restaurant, bar, lobby and public area have a new contemporary design.

If your business requires hotel accommodations and or meeting space, we are here to take care of your needs. Please call our sales and catering department for more information. 251.666.5600 or email shannon.harris@himobile.com
5465 Highway 90 West, Mobile, AL 36619



3 LABOR DAY - CHAMBER OFFICE CLOSED

12 NETWORKING @ NOON **Members Only* **One Representative Per Company**

Make 40-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation

Contact: Elizabeth Nelson at 251-431-8617 or enelson@mobilechamber.com

Sponsor:



13 MEMBERSHIP 101

Come meet other members and Chamber staff to learn about the many ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Elizabeth Nelson at 251-431-8617 or enelson@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.

18 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

A monthly forum exclusively for Chamber-member small business owners and managers.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Chad Kirtland, vice president production, 3 Echoes Productions

Topic: "How to Use Video to Market your Business"

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.

Sponsor:



19 DOING BUSINESS WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA BREAKFAST & EXPO

When: Breakfast - 8 to 9 a.m., Expo from 9 a.m. to noon

Where: The Battle House Hotel

Cost: Breakfast - \$30, Expo free

Speaker: Jerry Young, deputy purchasing director, State of Alabama

Topic: Growing Your Business Through State Contracts

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Registration required for both events by Sept. 13.



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Who's New



Ison



Grice

White-Spunner Realty added former Alabama State Rep. **Jamie Ison** to its commercial sales staff and licensed real estate agent and former small business owner **Wyndy Grice** to its residential sales team.

*



Garsed

Thompson Engineering hired **Caroline Garsed**, who worked as a summer intern with the firm for two years. She recently graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in biosystems engineering.



Vester



Jackson



Shaw



Allred

University of Mobile (UM) named **Heath Vester** creative director for marketing and public relations. He received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from UM.

UM selected **Dr. Rob Jackson** as executive director of its newly created institute for global leadership. He will also be assistant to the resident for church and denominational relations. He earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Samford University as well as

master's and doctorate degrees in divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Susan Shaw joined UM's athletics program. She will be director of athletics communication and strategy. She has a bachelor's degree in Christian leadership and ministry from UM, where she is pursuing a master's degree in higher education leadership and policy.

UM alumna **Katie Allred** was hired as assistant professor of software development and digital media in UM's school of business. Allred has a master's degree in mass communications from the University of Florida and a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from UM.

*



Matherson



Nolan



Duke



Pettway



Fox



Powell

Roberts Brothers added new agents **David Matherson**, **Brandi Nolan**, **Mandie Duke**, **Taylor Pettway**, **Monty Fox**, **Jessica Powell** and **Shundra Barnes**.



Rivers

Trustmark promoted **Britni Rivers** to branch officer at its Saraland office. Rivers earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and an associate degree in general studies from the University of Mobile.

*

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate - Generations added new agent **Tim McLain** to its Mobile office.



McLain

*



Gray



Butler

Watermark Design Group hired **Nicholas Gray** and **Daniel Butler**. Gray currently serves as president of the American Institute of Architects Alabama Chapter. He graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in architecture. Butler also graduated from Auburn with a master's degree in community planning.

*



Saxon



Sellers

Mike Saxon, vice president of **Alabama Power's Mobile division**, is the company's new vice president of customer operations. **Nick Sellers** succeeds Saxon as head of the Mobile division.





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Business Endeavors



Chemical engineer **Ellie Rome** officially launched her full-time health coaching business,

Mindfulbellie Inc. Rome, also a certified health coach, helps clients transform their health by losing weight through personalized, sustainable routines. For information, call or text 281-384-2287 or visit www.mindfulbellie.com.



Shoe Station's original store in Mobile at The Shoppes at Bel Air is moving to a larger, updated space at Springdale Mall in 2019. The new, 21,000-square-foot store is being designed specifically for shoe retail, with more natural light, higher ceilings and increased visibility from Airport Boulevard.



Hand Arendall Harrison Sale relocated its Mobile office to

Merchants Plaza as the anchor tenant. The firm occupies three floors of the eight-story office building located at St. Francis and Royal streets.



University of Mobile created the Institute for Global Leadership focused on theological education, leadership skills and disciple-making training. The program is one of several new initiatives expanding the university's international outreach.

In addition, the university will serve as headquarters for RAM, an international faith-based mission organization that has started more than 400 churches, opened orphanages, organized medical missions and reached thousands of people throughout eastern Europe.



Bellator Real Estate & Development, a full-service real estate company specializing in listing, marketing and brokering real estate along the Gulf Coast, recently unveiled a new logo and website.

Well Done



Nicholas representing The Alabama Association for Justice, a plaintiffs' attorneys association seeking redress through the courts, elected its new slate of officers, including local attorney **Steve Nicholas of Cunningham Bounds** as president.



Willis Towers Watson, a global advisory, broking and solutions company, was named Cyber Broking Team of the Year by Advisen Ltd. in its 2018 Cyber Risk Awards.

The award recognizes an innovative risk advisor and insurance broker who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing the understanding of cyber risk insurance in the wider marketplace.



Bailey



Stough



Kennedy

Several Mobile-area hospital leaders were recently recognized at the annual meeting of the Alabama

Hospital Association. **Owen Bailey**, CEO of the **University of South Alabama Health System**, was named chairman; **Joe Stough**, executive vice president and chief operating officer of **Infirmary Health**, was elected to the association's board of trustees; and **Todd S. Kennedy**, president and CEO of **Providence Hospital**, was elected president of the Southwest Alabama Regional Hospital Council.

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Truland Homes was named a finalist in the 19th annual Hearthstone BUILDER Humanitarian Award. Hearthstone and BUILDER, along with founding sponsor Kohler Co., recognize builders nationwide who go the extra mile to help others.

Trustmark was recognized for the highest customer satisfaction score in the South Central Region by the J.D. Power 2018 U.S. Retail Banking Satisfaction Study. The study measures satisfaction in six factors: channel activities, communication and advice, convenience, new account opening, problem resolution, and products and fees.

The Mitchell College of Business at the **University of South Alabama** was reaccruited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) for an additional five years,

maintaining a distinction held by only 5 percent of business schools in the world.



Browning graduated from Upstream Academy's Emerging Leaders Academy, a three-year program that unites public accounting firms of all sizes and locations.

Austal USA is one of six Alabama companies named to *Forbes'* 500 of America's best midsize employers. *Forbes* worked with market research company Statista to pinpoint the companies liked best by employees. Statista surveyed 30,000 people working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees.

Wilkins Miller LLC announced **Scott L. Browning**, a partner with the firm, graduated



White

Lee

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) National Alumni Society, in partnership with Warren Averett and *Business Alabama* magazine, presented the Sixth Annual Excellence In Business Top 25 to identify and recognize the success of the top 25 UAB alumni-owned or managed businesses. **Franklin Primary Health Center's CEO Charles White** and chief dental officer **Dr. Mary Dickerson Lee** were honored for their work at Franklin.

Fairhope-based **PointClear Networks** ranks among the world's 501 most strategic and innovative managed service providers (MSPs), according to Channel Futures' 11th annual MSP 501 Worldwide Company Rankings. Channel Futures teamed with Clarity Channel Advisors to evaluate progressive and forward-leaning companies.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication.

News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots, labeled with the person's last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to news@mobilechamber.com.

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