

64th

Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Economic Development Seminar



MTIDA hosted its 64th Annual Board Meeting and the 2026 Economic Development Seminar in Franklin on July 30–31. More than 200 attendees participated in the two-day event, including community leaders, local utility providers, TVA representatives, state partners, and private-sector professionals.

Program highlights included insights from Leah Scott on the state of the market and trends in site selection, as well as a conversation on manufacturing in Music City with Terry Calonge and Mike Miguel. Additionally, Dr. Murat Arik, Kathy Newell, and Ben Barnett discussed the 2026 Wage and Benefit Survey.

Executive Committee for 2026-2027:

President: Al Kerstiens

Mt. Pleasant Power System

Vice President: Mike Davidson

Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District

Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Hale

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation

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THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

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The work MTIDA does in Middle Tennessee is on behalf of and due to the support of our members.

2026 Annual Board of Directors Meeting & Economic Development Seminar



Leah Scott, Site Selection Director at KPMG, spoke to the group about the state of the market and trends in site selection.



Terry Calonge, Owner of Richards & Southern; **Mike Miguel**, Branch Manager for Prevost; and **Alex West**, Senior Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Goodlettsville, discussed the manufacturing industry behind Music City. The panel was moderated by **Courtney Sloven**, Regional Consultant for TVA.



Al Kerstiens, General Manager of Mt. Pleasant Power System, and **Mike Davidson**, Executive Vice President & CEO of Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District, led the 2026 Board of Directors Meeting.

2026 Economic Development Seminar



SAVE THE DATE 2027 MTIDA Annual Seminar - Friday, July 30



Valinor Dispatch Opens Advanced Manufacturing Facility in Cookeville



COOKEVILLE (June) Valinor Dispatch, a subsidiary of Valinor Enterprises, has officially opened its research, development, and manufacturing facility in Cookeville, Tennessee, marking a significant expansion of advanced technology operations in the Upper Cumberland region.

The facility serves as the centralized hub for all design, engineering, assembly, testing, and integration of the Dispatch Dock—a modular platform engineered to persistently and autonomously power unmanned operations in distributed environments.

Addressing a Critical Challenge

As autonomous systems become central to defense and commercial operations, a significant gap has emerged: power management in the field. Current operations require manual recovery, charging, and re-deployment of systems, creating operational risk and increased cognitive load.

The Dispatch Dock solves this challenge by enabling rapid launch, recovery, and autonomous recharging of multiple unmanned systems without manual handling—whether deployed from a pickup truck or a Navy vessel. This capability extends operational ranges and reduces operator intervention across law enforcement, first responders, search and rescue, and military applications.

Strategic Location in Middle Tennessee

Valinor Dispatch selected Tennessee for its facility based on the region's proven capacity to support advanced manufacturing and skilled talent in automotive, automation, and related industries, combined with access to Tennessee Tech University and other engineering-focused academic partners. As Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce President Amy New noted, *"This announcement highlights the impact of Tennessee Tech University. Having a Tennessee Tech graduate leading this company is a reminder that great talent is being developed right here in our own backyard..."*

The company is building toward a vision where distributed Dispatch units enable autonomous systems to operate across extended ranges with minimal operator intervention—a capability with profound implications for law enforcement, first responders, search and rescue operations, and military branches of service. *"We are building the energy backbone for autonomous systems,"* said Nicholas Leak, general manager of the Cookeville facility. *"This facility represents our commitment to solving some of the most critical challenges in national defense and emergency response."*

Source: Highlands Economic Partnership

TNECD Announces New Round of Site Development Grants

- \$13M+ IN FUNDING AWARDED TO 10 RECIPIENTS
- TNECD HAS DISTRIBUTED 220 SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS ACROSS TENNESSEE

TNECD (June) Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and Deputy Gov. and Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter announced the latest recipients of Site Development Grant (SDG) funding.

Ten grants, totaling more than \$13 million, are designed to help communities invest in infrastructure and engineering improvements to land economic development projects and achieve Select Tennessee site certification.

"Our administration has made significant investments to strengthen the competitiveness of communities across Tennessee, specifically in our rural areas," said Gov. Lee. "We appreciate the local leaders who are laying the groundwork for future economic development and positioning their communities to attract new investment and job creation."

The SDG program is part of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, which provides funding to improve the economies of Tennessee's rural communities. Since 2016, TNECD has awarded 220 SDGs across the state, totaling nearly \$150 million in assistance to local communities and generating 8,471 new jobs through projects that landed on sites improved through the program.

"Access to a shovel-ready site can be the deciding factor in whether a company chooses Tennessee or another state," said Deputy Gov. and Commissioner McWhorter. "I applaud the communities receiving grants today for their commitment to preparing for future economic growth and investment through TNECD's Site Development Grant program, and I look forward to seeing the impact these investments will have in their regions."

The grants awarded this round include:

City of Lewisburg
I-65 Commerce Park, \$100,000 – Due diligence

City of Sparta
Sparta/White County Industrial Park
\$71,280 – Due diligence



Sparta/White County Industrial Park

Industrial Development Board of McMinnville-Warren County
Mountain View Industrial Park North Site
\$975,000 – Sewer infrastructure

Industrial Development Board of Montgomery County
Clarksville-Montgomery County Corporate Business Park
North Tract 7, \$100,000 – Due diligence

Industrial Development Board of Roane County
Buttermilk Road Site, \$4,049,654 – Due diligence and property purchase

Industrial Development Board of Robertson County
White House Union Springs Business Park
\$3,136,979 – Access road construction

Industrial Development Board of Scott County
Airport Industrial Site, \$100,000 – Engineering and due diligence

Jackson Energy Authority
Airport Industrial Park Site B, \$773,500 – Sewer infrastructure

Morgan County Economic Development Board
Morgan County East Industrial Park, \$4,372,209 – Property clearing, site improvements, access road construction and water and sewer infrastructure design

Nickajack Port Authority
Nickajack Industrial Site, \$100,000 – Due diligence

Applications were reviewed by an advisory committee made up of TNECD, Austin Consulting, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Each application was supported by the community's senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Source: TNECD



Hygrade Components Expands in Maury County

MOUNT PLEASANT (June) Hygrade Components CEO Randall D. Gottlieb announced today the company will expand its operations through a strategic, long-term lease commitment in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee.

Hygrade Components will invest over \$1.6 million and create more than 30 new jobs in Maury County at its North Main Street location, which will directly support growth into new markets.

In total, the company will add approximately 100,000 square feet to its existing plant in Mount Pleasant where it will employ 100 people following completion of the project.

Founded in 1939 in Long Island, New York, Hygrade Components expanded to Mount Pleasant in 1994 where the company continues to manufacture an array of metal components primarily used in the fabrication of windows and doors. Since its founding, the company has grown organically and through acquisitions, with each successful acquisition expanding its manufacturing capabilities. Hygrade Components prides itself on delivering the fenestration industry's highest quality products, customer service and lead times. The company maintains its corporate headquarters in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and it has additional manufacturing facilities in Arkansas and Oregon and additional warehousing facilities in Texas.

Source: TNECD

Bridgetown Natural Foods to Expand in Wilson County, Add New Production Line



LEBANON (July) Bridgetown Natural Foods will expand operations in Wilson County, create 237 new jobs and install a new \$24.1 million food production line at its Lebanon facility. The additional line will begin immediately and increase production through the end of the year. Upon completion, the company's Tennessee presence will grow to more than 450 team members.

Today's announcement follows Bridgetown's 2024 expansion, which established its first manufacturing facility outside of its Oregon headquarters. Hiring is underway for multiple positions supporting the company's 24-hour operations.

Founded in 2010, Bridgetown Natural Foods designs and manufactures leading natural food products and serves as an innovation and supply chain partner to high-growth, natural foods brands. As a certified B Corporation, Bridgetown is committed to creating a positive and sustainable impact on its team members, customers and communities.

Source: TNECD

Medacta International Selects Maury County for the Development of a New U.S. Manufacturing Hub, Headquarters Relocation

THE COMPANY WILL CREATE 200+ JOBS,
INVEST \$85M OVER FIVE YEARS

SPRING HILL (July) Medacta will expand its footprint in Tennessee by relocating its U.S. headquarters and expanding its manufacturing operations to Maury County.

To further amplify the company's growth, Medacta will relocate and expand its U.S. headquarters from Franklin, Tennessee, to Spring Hill. Additionally, Medacta is co-locating what will become its U.S. manufacturing hub in Spring Hill. The major expansion will be carried out in several stages and is designed to strengthen the company's global supply chain for medical devices as well as its operational footprint.

Upon completion, the new development site on Jim Warren Road, near the intersection of I-65 and Saturn Parkway, is expected to create more than 200 new jobs across manufacturing, corporate operations and other supporting roles and represents an investment of \$85 million.



Medacta, a Swiss-listed company, was founded in Castel San Pietro, Switzerland, and is a global key player specializing in the design, production and distribution of innovative, personalized and sustainable solutions for joint replacement, sports medicine and spine surgery.

Switzerland is one of Tennessee's top partners for foreign direct investment (FDI) with more than 40 Swiss companies across the state that account for more than 4,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion in capital investment.

Source: TNECD



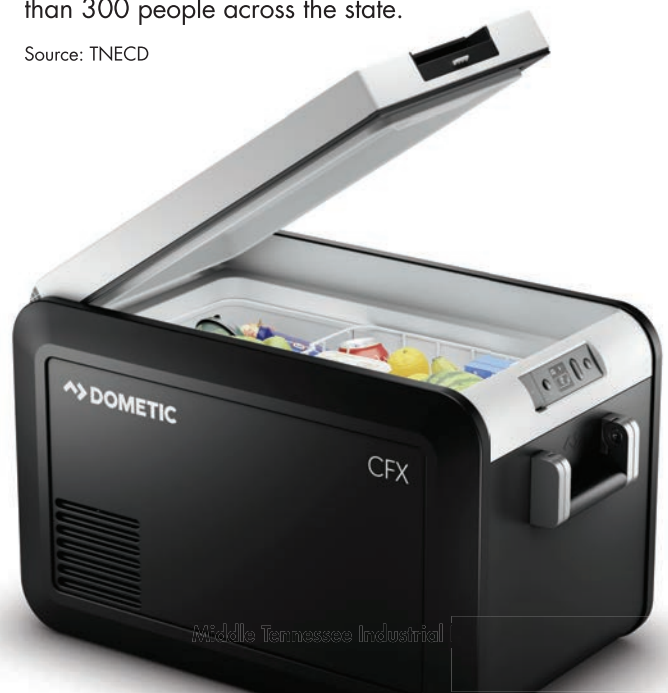
Dometic to Expand Manufacturing Operations in White County

SPARTA (August) Dometic will expand its manufacturing operations, create 90+ new positions, and invest in White County as part of the expansion of its existing manufacturing facility in Sparta. The project includes the relocation of steering and helm manufacturing operations from Pennsylvania to Tennessee, further strengthening the company's manufacturing presence in the state.

The Sparta facility manufactures marine products as part of Dometic's global Marine business. Upon completion of the project, the expansion will increase manufacturing capacity while supporting the company's continued growth in Tennessee.

Today's announcement builds on Dometic's longstanding manufacturing presence in Tennessee. Following completion of the expansion, Dometic will employ more than 300 people across the state.

Source: TNECD





SAVE
THE
DATE

DECEMBER 3

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

MTIDA/TVA Economic Development



Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association 2026-2027 Executive Committee

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Mt. Pleasant Power System

Vice President

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Middle TN Natural Gas Utility District

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Glenn Hale | *CEO*
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Carl Haney | *Director of Department of Energy*
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Jennifer Brogdon | *General Manager*
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Courtney R. Sloven | *Regional Consultant*
Tennessee Valley Authority

Dr. Trish Holliday | *Chief People Officer*
Nashville Electric Service



The MTIDA *Industry Leader* is published by the
Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association

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