



New Life For World War II Hangar

TULLAHOMA (January) The old World War II-era hangar at the Tullahoma Municipal Airport has been sold to a new company that will refurbish the hangar and utilize it to house 3 new businesses for the Tullahoma Area and employing 10 to 12 people.

The announcement of the sale of the hangar was made by Lynchburg Machine Tool, Inc. CEO Mike Williamson, along with City, Airport, and local economic development officials.

The nearly \$1 million project will consist of three new companies, with the expansion of Lynchburg Machine Tool's operations from nearby Moore County. In addition to the machining operations, Williamson will be offering hangar space for corporate and general aviation aircraft. General maintenance will be available to locally-stationed aircraft, as well as transient planes.

Plans are also being developed for an FAA repair station, pending FAA approval. An existing flight school on the field, Tullahoma Aviation Company (TAC), will be located in the facility offering flight training for private and commercial pilots.

The company will be renaming the facility that is being located to the Tullahoma Airport to reflect

its new location. The new name will be released soon.

Williamson reiterated that he planned to restore the 75-year-old facility to as much of its original look as possible.

The Tullahoma Regional Airport, originally built in 1942, has one 5,500-foot-long runway, another 4,200-foot-long runway, and a grass runway that's 2,700 feet long. It has undergone improvements in recent years

including a new terminal building, 19 new hangars completed in 2008 and four more in 2010. The airport was also got \$2 million in upgrades in 2014 to drainage, lighting, ramps, and a maintenance hangar.

Tullahoma is also home to Arnold Engineering and Developing Complex and Arnold Air Force Base, so the community's military roots go deep, and the airport is part of that history. The hangar harks back to those days when Tullahoma was home for basic military training for U.S. Army recruits during World War II, according to a 2007 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation report, "An Archaeological Survey of World War II Military Sites in Tennessee." A boiler room and storage building also still stand at the site, the report states.

Not only creating three new companies and adding 10 to 12 people but is also saving a historic building that is a large reminder of Tullahoma's early involvement in the aviation sector. The Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation (TAEDC) congratulated Williamson and all local leaders and expressed belief that this project is a symbol of many people working together.

Source: Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation

ICON Adds 85 Jobs In Brentwood



NASHVILLE (January) ICON Clinical Research, Inc. officials announced the company will expand its Brentwood research operations. The project will create 85 new, high-paying jobs in Davidson County over the next five years.

ICON is adding research managers, product managers and research coordinators for contracts within the oncology, cardiovascular and CNS space. In addition to hiring, ICON will invest in available office space and software and research equipment.

Founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1990, ICON's mission has been to help clients to accelerate the development of drugs and devices that save lives and improve quality of life.

ICON Clinical Research is a global provider of consulting, and outsourced development and commercialisation services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and government and public health organizations. They focus their innovation on the factors that are critical to their clients – reducing time to market, reducing cost and increasing quality – and their global team of experts has extensive experience in a broad range of therapeutic areas.

ICON has been recognized as one of the world's leading Contract Research Organizations through a number of high-profile industry awards. It currently has 369 employees in Tennessee and more than 15,250 employees worldwide.

Source: TNECD



Labeling Company Sticks With Columbia

COLUMBIA (January)

Documotion Research, Inc. officials announced that the company will establish new manufacturing operations in Maury County.

This will be the company's first operation outside of California, where it is headquartered.

The project represents an investment of \$9.3 million and creation of 80 jobs.

Documotion will renovate an existing building at 971 Greenlick Court in Columbia. Once complete, the facility will be Documotion's new manufacturing operations for point-of-sale labels.

Headquartered in Santa Ana, Calif., Documotion Research Inc. is a leading U.S. manufacturer and promoter of innovative, patented, and proprietary products. StickyPOS Rolls are a repositionable and re-stickable thermal label that is environmentally friendly and usable in many industries. Whether the application is perishable goods, retail, medical or warehousing.

StickyPOS Rolls:

- Save time and money •
- Maximize efficiency and reduce errors •
- Allow for a variable cut off length •
- Are liner-less and therefore half the cost of regular labels •
- Are self-cleaning •
- Are bio-degradable and environmentally friendly •
- Are removable and repositionable •
- Allow for a variable cut off length •
- Are liner-less allowing for a greater yield per roll.

Source: TNECD and Documotion Research website

Electric Vehicle Charges Ahead In Clarksville



CLARKSVILLE (February) Microvast officials announced that the company will establish a new manufacturing facility in Clarksville. Microvast will invest \$220 million and create 287 jobs in Montgomery County.

In 2019, at the request of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Microvast began the process of establishing a Li-ion battery facility in the United States. As part of the project, Microvast will renovate and expand a facility located at 780 International Blvd. in Clarksville to manufacture battery cells, modules, and packs.

Founded in 2006, Microvast is a leading global provider of next-generation battery technologies for commercial and specialty electric vehicles, a \$30 billion total addressable market. It has an established, and industry-leading, portfolio of battery technologies that out-perform its competitors on battery life, charging times, safety, and total cost of ownership.

On February 2, 2021 Microvast announced that it signed a definitive merger agreement to merge with Tuscan Holdings Corporation that will result in Microvast becoming a publicly listed company. The merger will provide up to \$822 million in gross cash proceeds to fund capacity expansion and to position the company to capitalize on its signed contracts with total value of over \$1.5 billion.

Microvast plans to begin the recruitment process in the fourth quarter of 2021 and into 2022, with employment opportunities available as early as August 2021.

Source: TNECD



Lawrence County Heats Up With Expansion

LAWRENCEBURG (February) Modine Manufacturing Company officials announced that the company will expand its plant in Lawrenceburg, investing \$1.2 million and creating 45 new jobs.

The project is a relocation of three product lines from Missouri and Rhode Island to its Lawrenceburg plant.

Modine will retrofit and expand its current facility for the new lines being added. The Tennessee

plant is currently primarily an aluminum fabrication plant and the new lines have significant stainless-steel content.

Modine manufactures heat transfer products for a wide range of markets including stationary power generation, mining, agriculture, construction, automotive and building HVAC. The company has had a manufacturing presence in Tennessee for over 30 years and currently employs more than 500 people across the state.

Source: TNECD

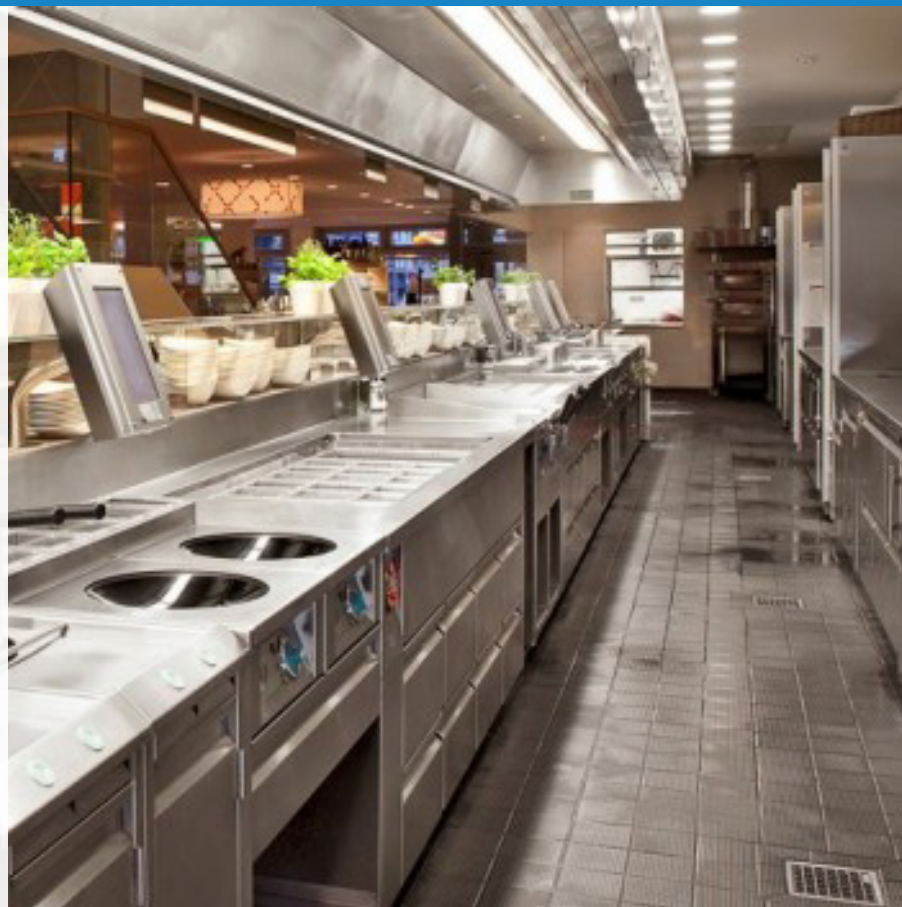
Fayetteville Welcomes Franke's Fourth Expansion

FAYETTEVILLE (February) Franke Foodservice Systems officials announced that the company will expand its Lincoln County operations and create at least 56 new jobs.

Franke is in the midst of a \$1.3 million investment to expand and make building improvements to its operations in Fayetteville, including the addition of woodworking capability to its core stainless-steel fabrication activities.

Franke specializes in the design and manufacture of foodservice equipment to equip major restaurant chains with everything from workstations to entire facilities. Franke also distributes replacement equipment and supplies to customers globally from its facilities in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Source: TNECD





Hankook Announces Major Clarksville Plant Expansion

CLARKSVILLE (February) Hankook Tire confirmed it is embarking on the phase 2 expansion of the South Korean-owned Clarksville tire plant, bringing its total investment in Montgomery County to about \$1 billion.

The Tennessee plant's annual production capacity will double to 10 million tires. Hankook is regarded in the recruiting realm as one of the biggest industrial scores not only in Montgomery County history, but the southeast region. The company's investment tops the list of major industrial development in the Clarksville area.

As part of phase 2, the company plans to invest almost \$91 million, plus more than \$270 million for maintenance.

Hankook's phase 2 expansion will include the construction of a new building on the grounds of the existing Tennessee plant, located off International Boulevard in the southern portion of the Corporate Business Park.

As a result of the expansion, Hankook said it plans to add a currently-unspecified number of additional jobs "and looks forward to continuing to work with the great people of Tennessee."

The plant currently has just under 1,000 employees through its initial \$800 million investment in Montgomery County. Phase 1 of the Tennessee plant was completed and operational in 2017 and has annual production capacity of about 5 million Hankook tires.

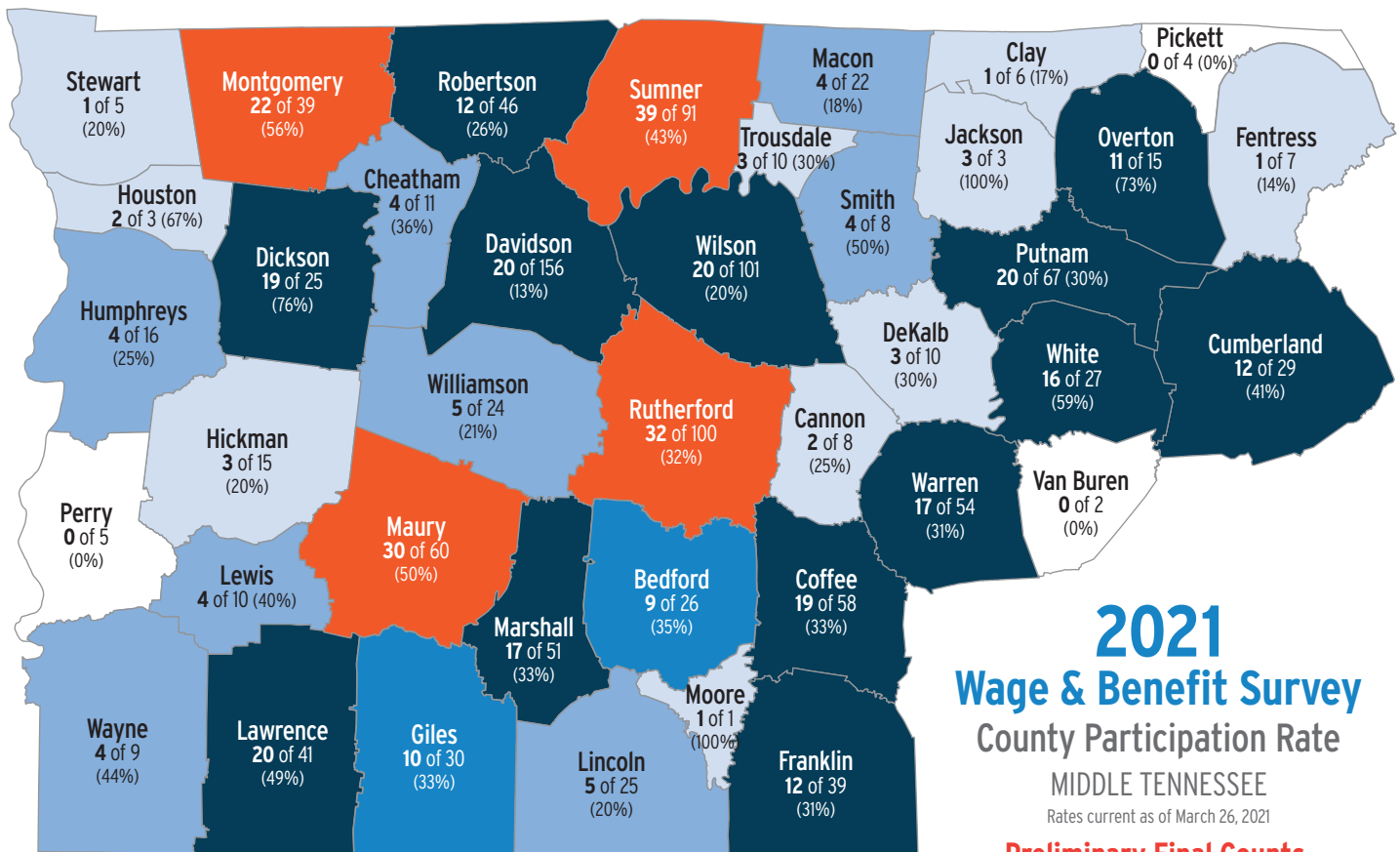
Hankook has 1.5 million square feet of manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, and administrative space in Clarksville.

Company officials were attracted to Montgomery County by the availability of a suitable site off Interstate 24, the quality of the local workforce and a cooperative government, along with good utilities. Several large automakers – Hankook customer targets – are in close proximity to Clarksville.

Hankook tire production in Montgomery County was launched four years ago at a rate of 6,000 tires per day. It's heading toward a near-term goal of 10,000 per day, which is enough to generate 24 daily shipments out of the plant and into the combined U.S., Mexican and Canadian marketplace. Officials said they want to continue expanding upon that level of productivity.

Source: Leaf Chronicle

2021 Wage & Benefit Survey - COMPLETED



2021 Wage & Benefit Survey

County Participation Rate

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Rates current as of March 26, 2021

Preliminary Final Counts

Number of Participants

None ≤ 3 ≤ 7 ≤ 10 ≤ 20 Over 20

During February and March over 300 companies completed the third bi-annual wage and benefit survey of the middle Tennessee region. Administered by the Business and Economic Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University, this survey is geared towards industrial and manufacturing jobs and participants are provided the information gathered from it, free of charge, and in complete confidentiality.

"This survey is built upon the successful of our 2017 and 2019 surveys. As a collaborative project with partners throughout the mid-state, MTSU can document the local wage and benefit structure in our local communities. Of the three surveys we have done with MTSU, this one has the potential for heightened importance due to the economic impact of Covid-19 and we are eager to see the results" said Robert Bibb, MTIDA Executive Director.

The above map shows the count of companies "engaged" in the survey as of the deadline, March 25. During April and May, the MTSU team will be

assessing the data and preparing the regional and subregional reports. Included in this map are all companies (over 400) who accessed the survey and final numbers may change as MTSU removes any incomplete responses.

For everyone's contribution to this effort, thank you! This is a true regional partnership and one that can only be accomplished through our cooperative efforts.

Sponsored by:

USDA, Rural Development
Middle TN Industrial Development Association
Tennessee Valley Authority
TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development
American Job Centers of Middle Tennessee
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
Upper Cumberland Development District
Greater Nashville Regional Council
South Central Tennessee Development District
Tennessee Central Economic Authority
The Highlands Economic Partnership
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry





NTT Delivers Digital Center in The Gulch

NASHVILLE (March) NTT DATA officials announced that the company will establish an innovation and digital delivery center in Nashville.

The global IT services leader will invest \$9.9 million and create 350 jobs, including a focus on healthcare and manufacturing technology, as a result of the project. Its office will be located in Nashville's Capitol View building in The Gulch.

NTT DATA's new center will focus on developing and deploying digital and industry skills within the IT sector. The company will provide U.S.-based service delivery to local, national, and international clients

and serve as a cross-industry and technology showcase from its office in downtown Nashville's Capitol View.

NTT DATA Corporation, based in Tokyo, Japan, is one of the world's largest IT and business service providers. Ranked 62nd in the Fortune Global 500, NTT DATA Corporation employs 130,000 people worldwide and delivers services in more than 50 countries. NTT DATA Services is a U.S.-based division with headquarters in Plano, Texas that employs more than 50,000 professionals who work with the world's leading brands.

Source: TNECD



Lebanon's Royal Canin Expanding

LEBANON (March) Royal Canin announced the company will expand its Lebanon facility to support the company's future growth.

ROYAL CANIN® will expand its Wilson County operations, adding more than 90 new jobs and investing more than \$200 million. The facility expansion began in 2019 and is scheduled for completion in 2022.

Royal Canin's investment will enable the facility to

expand its capabilities to manufacture the Royal Canin and EUKANUBATM health and nutrition product lines. With the investment, Royal Canin will add more than 108,000 square feet of new working space with five additional highly automated production lines, doubling the plant capacity.

Royal Canin USA is a leader in science-based cat and dog health nutrition. Founded by a veterinarian in 1968, Royal Canin has more than 50 years of experience in delivering individualized nutritional solutions. In collaboration with an expert team of nutritionists, breeders, and veterinarians from around the world, Royal Canin places cats and dogs at the central point of the innovation process. The Royal Canin product line offers a range of diets based on size, age, breed, lifestyle, and therapeutic requirements. Royal Canin diets are available at veterinary hospitals and pet specialty stores nationwide. Royal Canin is a subsidiary of Mars, Incorporated.

Source: TNECD

Gap Expands Gallatin Distribution Hub

GALLATIN (March) It's the latest sign of quick growth in a community where this Fortune 200 retailer has had a presence going back more than 20 years. Global clothing and accessories retailer Gap Inc. will invest \$83 million to expand operations at its distribution center in Gallatin. The company plans to create 600 new jobs.

As customer demand for online shopping rises and Gap works to grow its online business to approximately 50 percent of revenue over the next three years, expanding its omni fulfillment network will allow the company to deliver a faster, more efficient shopping experience to customers across



the country. The Gallatin expansion is part of the company's long-term digital growth strategy.

Headquartered in San Francisco, Gap Inc., a collection of purpose-led lifestyle brands, is the largest American specialty apparel company offering clothing, accessories, and personal care products for men, women, and children under the Old Navy, Gap, Banana Republic, Athleta, Intermix, and Janie and Jack brands.

Source: Area Development



Nashville Gets Positive Encouragement

NASHVILLE (March) Educational Media Foundation (EMF) – parent company to K-LOVE and Air1 radio networks, AccessMore podcasts and WTA Media – will establish over the next three

years a new global headquarters in the Nashville region, the heart of the contemporary Christian entertainment industry.

"After much prayer, extensive discussion and research, the EMF Board and leadership team are in unanimous agreement that relocating our headquarters to the Nashville area will position us to fulfill our mission of creating compelling media that inspires and encourages audiences to have a meaningful relationship with Christ," said EMF CEO Bill Reeves. "This move will enable us to better serve our audiences and deepen our relationships with faith-focused artists, content creators and the recording, film and publishing industries as we continue to broaden our media offerings through radio, film, streaming, live events, books and more."

EMF has been growing its Tennessee presence

over the last several years. It recently expanded its studio, from which the K-LOVE morning show and Air1 programs now broadcast, and its promotions, AccessMore podcasting, live events and WTA Media teams have offices in the area already. Members of EMF's content division will begin moving into the existing offices and temporary space this summer. EMF is in the final stages of selecting land locations, architects and building developers.

Educational Media Foundation (EMF) began as a single, non-profit radio station in Northern California in 1982 and is now the parent company to K-LOVE and Air1—the nation's largest contemporary Christian radio networks. With nearly 500 employees and broadcasting on more than 1,000 signals across all 50 states, EMF is also among the top 10 U.S.-based audio streaming companies.

Currently based in Rocklin, California, with additional offices in major markets throughout the U.S, EMF's global headquarters staff will grow in multiple phases over the next three years, both from relocating employees and local hiring. A new permanent campus is to be constructed; the exact location is yet to be finalized.

Source: <https://www.air1.com/news>

Congratulations to Unipres, USA



PORTLAND (March) Unipres employees and executives were joined by representatives from Nissan for an award presentation. Unipres' 250,000-square-foot Portland facility was recognized with Nissan's Outstanding Quality Excellence Award for its work in supplying suspensions for the Nissan Rogue compact sport-utility vehicle. Only 5 suppliers were selected for this unique award and Unipres is the only body supplier to receive it.

This award is presented to a select group of suppliers who excelled during the new Rogue launch in Smyrna. The Unipres – Nissan Teams have brought great benefit to Portland.

Unipres' Portland plant has been in operation for 27 years. In addition to Portland, Unipres North America operates plants in Alabama and Mississippi, Mexico and Brazil.

Source: The Portland Leader

Retiring Board Members



Jimmy Gregory



Roger Caldwell

(March) Jimmy Gregory, General Manager of Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corp, was recently recognized upon his retirement in January. Executive Director Bob Bibb presented Jimmy with a plaque and gift card from the Board of Directors for his service and support of MTIDA while representing UCEMC as a Board Member of the Association. We wish Jimmy all the best and welcome Ms. Jennifer Brogdan as the incoming General Manager for UCEMC.

Also, Mr. Roger Caldwell has retired as General Manager of the Winchester Utility System and he was presented with a plaque and gift card from the MTIDA Board of Directors at his retirement reception. We congratulate Roger on his retirement and welcome George Powell as the newly appointed General Manager.



More Investment, More Jobs Come to Clarksville

CLARKSVILLE (April) LG Electronics USA officials announced that the world-leading home appliance manufacturer will expand its Clarksville operations.

To help meet the unprecedented U.S. demand for its top-rated washing machines, LG is increasing production by investing an additional \$20.5 million to add another shift for manufacturing. Higher production is creating 334 new jobs, bringing total LG Clarksville employment to about 1,000 this year.

LG announced in early 2017 that Montgomery County would be home to its first washing machine manufacturing operation in the United States. Completed in 2018, the one-million square-foot facility is believed to be the world's most advanced integrated washing machine plant.

The \$360 million smart factory currently has the capacity to produce more than one million front and top-load washers per year. Integrated production operations supporting assembly include metal fabrication, plastic injection molding and painting. Complementing the factory's skilled workforce are hundreds of robots used in the material handling, parts production, sub-assembly and final assembly processes.

LG Electronics USA is the North American subsidiary of LG Electronics, Inc., a \$56 billion global innovator in technology and manufacturing headquartered in South Korea, which is one of Tennessee's top sources of direct foreign investment. Korean companies, including LG, have invested nearly \$1.5 billion in private capital in the state and employ more than 4,500 Tennesseans.

Source: ClarksvilleNow.com

COMING TO ORLINDA: Multi-Million Dollar COVID Swab Manufacturing Facility

ORLINDA (April) Puritan Medical Products, North America's largest manufacturer of COVID-19 testing swabs, will invest \$220 million to establish new manufacturing and distribution operations in Orlinda. The company plans to create 625 jobs over the next five years.

The facility will be Puritan's fourth in the United States, and the second partially funded by the federal government as part of the country's pandemic response. Last May, the company received \$75.5 million in CARES Act funding that was used to open a factory in Pittsfield, Maine, that ramped up production from 15 million swabs per month to 90 million swabs per month. The Orlinda operation is designed to produce up to 200 million swabs per month.

Headquartered in Maine, Puritan Medical Products is a family-owned business that has been operating for more than 100 years. Puritan is one of two companies in the world that manufactures the specialized swabs used in COVID-19 tests. Because of the contributions the company has made to the fight against COVID-19, Puritan was named "Company of the Year" by Inc. on the magazine's Best in Business 2020 list.

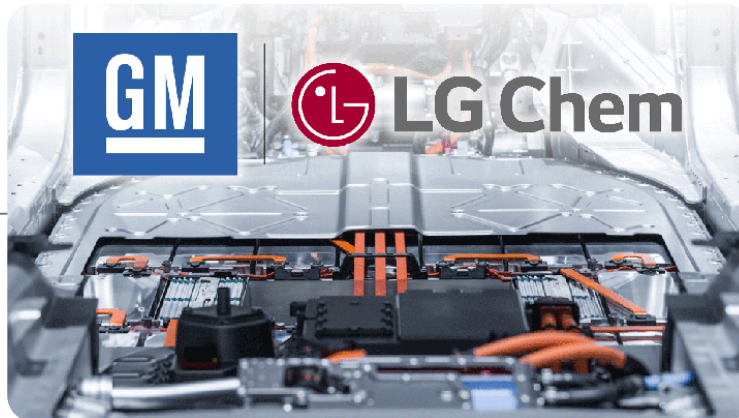
Prior to the pandemic, Puritan produced roughly 15 to 20 million swabs per month. With funding awarded through the Department of Defense and the CARES Act, Puritan has since increased its swab production to 70 to 90 million swabs per month at its two facilities in Maine.

Source: Area Development



SPRING HILL

Will Be Home to Yet Another GM Facility



SPRING HILL (April) Ultium Cells LLC, a joint venture of LG Energy Solution and General Motors, will invest more than \$2.3 billion to build its second battery cell manufacturing plant in the United States.

Located in Spring Hill, the project will create 1,300 new manufacturing jobs in Maury County.

Ultium Cells LLC will build the new 2.8-million-square-foot, state-of-the-art plant on land leased from General Motors. Construction will begin immediately, and the plant is scheduled to be open in late 2023. Once operational, the Ultium Cells plant will supply battery cells to GM's Spring Hill assembly plant.

In October 2020, GM announced it would invest \$2 billion in its Spring Hill assembly plant to begin the transition to become the company's third electric vehicle manufacturing site, and the first outside of the state of Michigan. The all-new Cadillac LYRIQ will be the first electric vehicle produced at GM's Spring Hill assembly plant. GM will also continue to produce the Cadillac XT6 and XT5 at the facility.

GM's proprietary vtechnology is at the heart of the company's strategy to compete for nearly every EV customer in the marketplace, whether they are looking for affordable transportation, luxury vehicles, work trucks, commercial trucks or high-performance machines.

Ultium batteries are unique in the industry because

the large-format, pouch-style cells can be stacked vertically or horizontally inside the battery pack. This allows engineers to optimize battery energy storage and layout for each vehicle design. Energy options range from 50 to 200 kilowatt hours, which could enable a GM-estimated range up to 450 miles or more on a full charge with 0-60 mph acceleration in 3 seconds.

GM's future Ultium-powered EVs are designed for Level 2 and DC fast charging. Most will have 400-volt battery packs and up to 200 kW fast charging capability while GM's truck platform will have 800-volt battery packs and 350 kW fast charging capability.

With a 30-year history in the battery business, LG Energy Solution has made consistent, large-scale investments to accumulate enough stability, credibility and manufacturing experience to invent its own cutting-edge technologies. The company established its first research facility in the U.S. in the early 2000s. In 2010, the company built its first U.S. battery plant in Holland, Michigan. Through Ultium Cells, LG Energy Solution and GM will merge their advanced technologies and capabilities to help accelerate automotive electrification.

Tennessee claims nearly 40 percent of the Southeast's electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and investment, with more than \$4.2 billion invested by companies in Tennessee's electric vehicle industry. In addition, more than 16,000 electric vehicles are produced in the state each year, which ranks Tennessee No. 1 in the Southeast for electric vehicle manufacturing.

Source: TNECD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

IN PERSON MEETING

MTIDA Annual Seminar and lunch
will be held **Thursday, July 29**

EMBASSY SUITES COOL SPRINGS



Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association 2020-2021 Executive Committee

President

Brian Taylor | *Superintendent*
CDE Lightband

Vice President

Chris Davis | *General Manager*
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Secretary/Treasurer

Rodney Boyd | *General Manager & CEO*
McMinnville Electric System

Members

Keith Carnahan | *CEO*
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

Mark Kimbell | *General Manager*
Gallatin Department of Electricity

Scott Spence | *President & CEO*
Duck River Electric Membership Corporation

Lee Johnson | *Manager, Field Operations*
Tennessee Valley Authority



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

2108 Westwood Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212

P 615-269-5233

E mtida@mtida.org

W www.mtida.org

Robert T. Bibb | *Executive Director*

Kendrick J. Curtis, PhD | *Assistant Executive Director*

Dawn E. Olson | *Executive Assistant*

Wendi K. Powell | *Graphic Designer*