

## Fortune 500 Energy Company to Create 175 Jobs



**NASHVILLE, TN (January)** Delek US Holdings, Inc. officials announced that the energy company plans to expand its headquarters operation in Middle Tennessee.

Delek, a Fortune 500 company with assets in petroleum refining, logistics, retail convenience stores, asphalt and renewables, will invest \$4 million and create 175 jobs in Middle Tennessee as part of the expansion.

In July 2017, Brentwood-based Delek closed on its acquisition of Alon USA Energy, Inc. Delek plans to keep the corporate headquarters in Middle Tennessee and expand its footprint in the area over the next few years.

Founded in 2001, Delek operates four inland refineries with a combined production capacity of 302,000 barrels per day. Delek's logistics operation supports its refining segment as well as third parties, transporting and storing both crude oil and refined production in the Southeast U.S. and Texas.

The company also markets asphalt product formulations through its operations and operates plants in Texas and Arkansas that produce biodiesel fuels that are used in refining operations and by third parties. In addition, Delek has a renewable diesel facility in California and operates approximately 300 convenience stores in Texas and New Mexico.

Source: TN ECD



## Nissan Launches Partnership with Local Carpooling Startup

**FRANKLIN, TN (January)** Franklin-based Nissan North America Inc. and Hytch – a carpooling startup founded by local entrepreneur Mark Cleveland – want to pay you to share a ride.

The automotive giant will now pay Hytch users 5 cents for each mile they share a ride with another person within Middle Tennessee, including if they're taking mass transit, the companies announced Tuesday. Nissan will also pay 1 cent per each mile Hytch users share within the state of Tennessee. Payments will be made to all Hytch users, not just Nissan employees.

Not only does the new partnership give Hytch, which launched in 2016, the stamp of approval of one of the world's leading automakers, but it also gives Nissan the ability to track how consumers react to new mobility options. From downloads to number of rides shared, Dan Teeter, Nissan's director of vehicle connected services, said his team, along with Mark Cleveland's



Dan Teeter of Nissan North America Inc. poses with Hytch founder Mark Cleveland at the launch of the companies new partnership.

team at Hytch, will monitor that data to track the program's success.

Teeter said Nissan's involvement also emphasizes the company's role in innovating the automotive industry, pointing to its Leaf electric vehicle as another example.

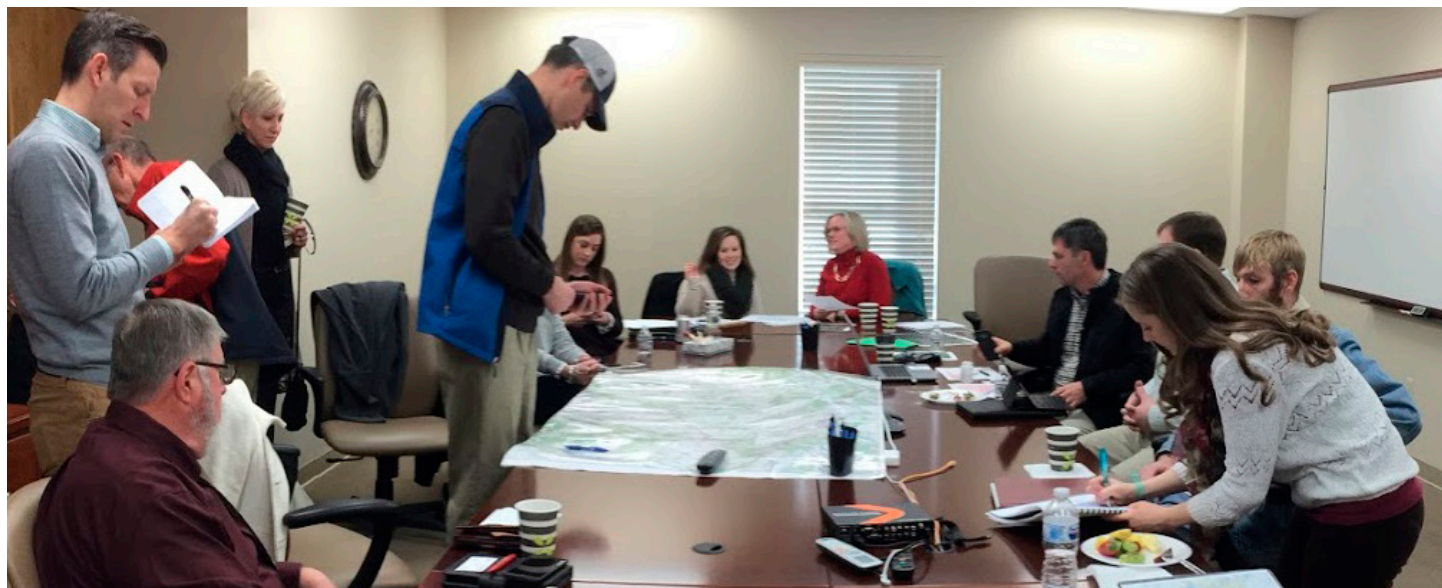
Source: TN ECD

## Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program

**SMITHVILLE, TN (January)** DeKalb County completed their Property Evaluation Program (PEP) visit with Leanne Cox, TNECD's Site Development Director, and Austin Consulting.

The PEP program helps communities identify potential industrial sites and prioritize those sites based on needs and potential impact.

Source: TN ECD







## Asurion Will Create IT Positions As It Consolidates Corporate Headquarters

**NASHVILLE, TN (February)** Asurion, LLC officials announced that the company will create 400 information technology jobs as it consolidates operations into a new corporate headquarters in downtown Nashville.

Asurion announced it would consolidate four existing Nashville facilities into a single downtown corporate headquarters location, part of a newly announced office development in Nashville's Gulch district, where it will create the 400 additional jobs. The location will house Asurion's corporate personnel and serve as a global product and technology hub for the company.

Nashville-based Asurion is a global technology company that provides technology support solutions and protection for smartphones, tablets, consumer electronics and other devices. The company operates in dozens of countries and has 17,000 employees worldwide.

Asurion employs more than 3,100 Tennesseans in Middle Tennessee. In addition to its existing office locations in Davidson County, Asurion operates customer support centers in Antioch and Smyrna.

Pending an executed lease agreement, construction of the new office is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2019 and open in the third quarter of 2021.

Source: TN ECD

## Google Breaks Ground on \$600M Clarksville Data Center



**CLARKSVILLE, TN (February)** Google CEO Sundar Pichai was in Clarksville for the groundbreaking of the tech giant's new \$600 million data center in Montgomery County. Google plans to create 70 jobs at the new facility. This investment by Google, one of the world's leading companies, underscores Tennessee's strong business environment and will have a major impact on Clarksville.

*The 1,300-acre site will be powered by 100% renewable energy.*

The Tennessee data center is part of a \$2.5 billion dollar investment the company is making to open or expand data centers in Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia and Oklahoma. These data centers are what make Google services run for you or your business (in Tennessee alone, they answer millions of searches a day, and about 18,000 businesses and nonprofits use their search and advertising tools).

In addition to job opportunities at Google, they recently announced Grow with Google initiative which continues to create opportunities for more people across the country. As part of their \$1 billion commitment over the next five years, they were thrilled to announce a \$300,000 Google.org grant to Goodwill of Middle Tennessee, to incorporate new digital skills trainings into their workforce-development program—including new local scholarships for their IT Support Professional Certificate.

Source: Inside Google





## Nashville Display Will Create 20 New Jobs in Dover

**DOVER, TN (February)** Nashville Display announced that it will expand its operations in Dover. The fabricated wire and metal display manufacturer will create 20 jobs and invest \$3 million in Stewart County. Nashville Display designs, prototypes and manufactures both standard and custom retail displays and fixtures. The company works with major retail stores such as Cracker Barrel, Dollar General and Tractor Supply. Nashville Display plans to expand its operations in Stewart County by adding new equipment to keep up with growing demand. The company recently installed a new tube laser that provides more design capability and allows faster output of machined and cut tubing for display fixtures.

Source: TN ECD

## Schneider Electric Opens New Franklin Regional Office Hub, Eyes Aggressive Growth



**FRANKLIN, TN (February)** At a ribbon cutting ceremony in Schneider Electric's new Nashville Hub, local and state officials attended to congratulate the French energy company on consolidating their North American operations to Middle Tennessee. The hub is located at Two Franklin Park and sits between McEwen Drive and the Nissan North America headquarters, just east of Interstate 65.

The new hub in Franklin Park II, will be taking up five floors and two suites on the first floor. In total, the business will take 158,000 square feet of space. As it launches this regional location, more than 900 people will start working in Franklin. Those employees came from multiple offices in the state.

This hub will make the largest Schneider Electric office in the country. Within its five floors, it has office, training, lab and customer meeting spaces, along with rooms for nursing mothers, prayer and meditation, fitness and market centers and outdoor walking trails.

Schneider Electric is an energy management company that deals with homes, buildings, data centers, infrastructures and industries. Schneider Electric has a presence in more than 100 countries.

Source: Tennessean





## Healthcare Company to Create More Than 100 Jobs

**BRENTWOOD, TN (MARCH)** SpecialtyCare, Inc. announced plans to expand its headquarters in Brentwood. The healthcare company plans to create 124 new jobs. SpecialtyCare will consolidate multiple office locations to a single 40,000-square-foot facility within the Eastpark Office Park in Maryland Farms in Brentwood.

SpecialtyCare, Inc. is a healthcare company that supports surgeons and medical centers with highly skilled people, equipment and data that increase reliability, drive improved clinical outcomes and reduce costs. The company delivers exceptional care outcomes, patient safety and financial results in more than 1,000 hospitals and health systems, and supports more than 13,500 physicians who perform more than 400,000 surgical procedures annually in 46 states and Puerto Rico.

Source: TNECD

## Dorman Products Breaks Ground on New \$55M Portland Facility

**PORTLAND, TN (April)** Dorman Products broke ground on its new Portland manufacturing and distribution facility. The 815,000-square-foot plant located in the TN-KY Industrial Park will be Dorman's largest facility to date. Dorman, which has operated in Portland since 2006, plans to create approximately 215 jobs and push its total employment in Portland to nearly 600 employees.

Source: TN ECD



## Automotive Battery Manufacturer to Create 200 Jobs

**CLARKSVILLE, TN (April)** ATLASBX Co., LTD officials announced that the company will locate its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Clarksville. The global automotive battery manufacturer will invest \$75 million and create approximately 200 jobs in Montgomery County.

ATLASBX is a manufacturer of storage batteries primarily in South Korea. It produces batteries for traditional passenger cars, light trucks, electric vehicles, commercial vehicles, boats and recreational vehicles. The company has a 74-year history of producing high-quality batteries. It currently operates two manufacturing plants in South Korea, which is also the location of its global headquarters office.

ATLASBX is a sister company of Hankook Tire, which officially opened its tire manufacturing plant in Clarksville in October 2017.

ATLASBX plans to build a new manufacturing facility that will be completed by 2020. The company will

produce approximately 2.4 million batteries per year at the Clarksville facility, with a dedicated Absorbent Glass Mat (AGM) line, a high-performance battery for start-stop vehicles.

ATLASBX also maintains a headquarters office in Nashville that was established in 2017.

Source: TN ECD



## Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program Participants Announced

(April) The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) announced the counties chosen to participate in the latest round of the Select Tennessee Property Evaluation Program (PEP).

The counties selected in this round of PEP include Anderson, Benton, **CHEATHAM**, Hardin, Henry, **MARSHALL** and Washington.

Started in 2015, PEP is designed to improve the inventory of industrial sites and buildings in Tennessee. The program evaluates potential properties, advising counties on where investment may be most beneficial and how sites can be improved to attract prospective companies. PEP originates from the department's Select Tennessee Certified Site Program. With the assistance of site selection firm Austin Consulting, PEP benefits participating counties by providing guidance on site planning for future industrial development projects.



For counties selected to participate, PEP includes an on-site visit by Austin Consulting and TNECD, an educational webinar on the site selection process and a comprehensive assessment addressing the strengths and needs of a community's inventory of industrial sites. This assessment also offers recommendations for communities to improve marketability.

PEP selection was based on the demonstrated local need for industrial properties and the county's ability to assemble viable properties with market potential. The application process begins with the submission of a letter of intent, which is accepted at any time. Upon receipt of the letter, interested communities will be provided with the PEP application. A new round of communities will be accepted into the program in the fall of 2018.

Source: TN ECD

## Site Visits for Select TN Certification



Clay County



Macon County

(April) Leanne Cox, TNECD's Site Development Director and Austin Consultant Jonathan Gemmen, along with Kendrick Curtis, MTIDA, visited sites applying for Select TN certification in Clay County (Mitchell Street Industrial Site) and Macon County (Lafayette Industrial Park Expansion).

Certification shows that the sites have undergone steps to minimize risks for companies looking to locate in these communities.

Source: TN ECD





## Ceramics Supplier to Invest \$5 Million, Create Approximately 30 Jobs

**COOKEVILLE, TN (April)** Colorobbia USA, Inc. officials announced that the ceramics supplier will invest \$5 million to establish operations in Cookeville.

Colorobbia USA plans to build a 50,000-square-foot facility that includes distribution functions and a technical assistance laboratory. The Putnam County facility is expected to be operational in January 2019, creating approximately 30 jobs over the next five years.

Colorobbia USA is part of Gruppo Colorobbia, an Italian company and global leader in the ceramic and glass industries. Established in 1921, Gruppo Colorobbia is a family-owned company headquartered in the province of Vinci, Italy. It has more than 2,000 employees and operates in 18 different countries.

Gruppo Colorobbia's products include glazes, frits, pigments and ceramic inks for the ceramic tile and glass industries. The company also produces precious metals and a line of products for artistic ceramics.

"Our growth expectations and job creation plan are directly linked to the ceramic industry growth," Arturo Salazar, president of Colorobbia USA, said. "We expect

to start operations with the first stage of the project in the beginning of 2019. The increase of porcelain tile production in Tennessee through new production plants has opened the opportunity for our company to the possibility of this project. This plant will allow us to offer world-class technical service to clients."

"Being close to our clients is a fundamental rock of Gruppo Colorobbia's philosophy. With this investment, we will be able to offer quality products and technical assistance services to the North American market," Salazar added. "Cookeville offers high-quality human resources for the different aspects of our project, from the more technical to the direct production force. The selection of Cookeville was based on different criteria such as the quality of life, human resources and its strategic geographical location with respect to our clients."

Source: TN ECD



Melinda Kaifer, Rodrigo Gonzalez and Arturo Salazar



# 25 Communities to Receive Site Development Grants



**NASHVILLE, TN (March)** Tennessee Economic and Community Development announced that 25 communities will receive more than \$9.6 million in Site Development Grants for industrial site preparation.

The Site Development Grant program is part of the larger Rural Economic Opportunity Act passed in 2016 and updated in 2017.

*The grants are intended to help rural communities overcome barriers to site certification and prepare them to receive an economic development project that creates jobs in their community.*

These funds assist communities in finalizing infrastructure and engineering improvements for project-ready certified sites.

The Site Development Grant program works in cooperation with the department's Select Tennessee Site Certification program. "Through its Site Development Grant program, TNECD has awarded \$21.6 million over three years to communities throughout Tennessee," TNECD Site Development Director Leanne Cox said. "These grants are a valuable resource for local economic development projects, demonstrating Tennessee's proactive approach to industrial development and support for further growth and job creation."

Applications were reviewed by an advisory committee made up of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Austin Consulting, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

## The grants awarded to the Middle Tennessee Communities include:

- City of Pulaski: Pulaski Industrial Park South, Lot 5 - \$500,000 - Extend roadway, water line and sewer line
- Dickson County: Dickson County South Site - \$41,770 - Conduct due diligence studies and prepare master plan
- Franklin County Industrial Development Board: Franklin County Industrial Park #9 - \$350,000 Grade and excavate a pad on which to place a 100,000 square foot building
- Smith County: Baker Property - \$1,000,000 - Complete site grading
- The Industrial Development Board of Perry County: 1-40 Industrial Park - \$760,000 - Extend forced main sewer line
- Van Buren County: BDS Industrial Site - \$17,670 - Conduct due diligence studies

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

Source: TN ECD





## New Zealand Firm Picks Nashville for First U.S. Office, Plans to Create 110 Jobs

**NASHVILLE, TN (April)** Mobile Mentor, Inc. announced that it will invest \$2 million to establish its first U.S. operations in Nashville, creating 110 jobs.

Mobile Mentor, Inc., part of Mobile Mentor Limited, develops, secures and manages mobile solutions for health care, banks, airlines, utilities and government organizations and offers application development, mobile security and mobility management. Mobile Mentor will focus solely on health care in Nashville for the first few years. The company was founded in 2004 and is headquartered in Auckland, New Zealand with locations in Wellington, New Zealand and New South Wales, Australia.

Mobile Mentor plans on locating its new operations in an existing location in Nashville's West End neighborhood. With this new location, the company will be better equipped to provide service to its North American customers.

Source: TN ECD



## GM Brings Back Third Shift to Spring Hill, Returning 700 Jobs Cut in 2017

**SPRING HILL, TN (April)** General Motors will add back a third production shift at its Spring Hill manufacturing plant, a move expected to bring back 700 jobs lost in 2017.

GM announced in September it would be laying off nearly 700 employees at its Spring Hill plant in November because of "moderating sales", it said in a notice filed with the state.

The reversal is the result of increased market demand for GMC Acadia and Cadillac XT5 crossovers as consumers increasingly choose trucks, crossovers and SUVs over sedans.

The third shift announcement follows a separate, \$294 million investment for a new Cadillac crossover and



plant upgrades announced last year. GM will also build the Holden Acadia in Spring Hill in 2018 for export to Australia and New Zealand.

Source: TN ECD





## Payments and Software Solutions Company to Create 42 Jobs in Rutherford County

**MURFREESBORO, TN (April)** i3 Verticals, LLC announced that the integrated payment and software solutions company plans to expand its Middle Tennessee operations by establishing a new facility in Murfreesboro.

i3 Verticals will invest approximately \$500,000 and create 42 new jobs in Rutherford County.

i3 delivers integrated payment and software solutions to small- and medium-sized businesses and other organizations in strategic vertical markets, such as education, non-profits, the public sector, property management, health care and business-to-business (B2B) payments markets. i3 currently has operations across the U.S. including a facility in Nashville.

i3 plans to renovate and occupy an 8,500-square foot facility in Murfreesboro. The company plans to begin construction on the new building in May 2018 and the facility is expected to be completed by July 2018.

Source: TN ECD

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

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