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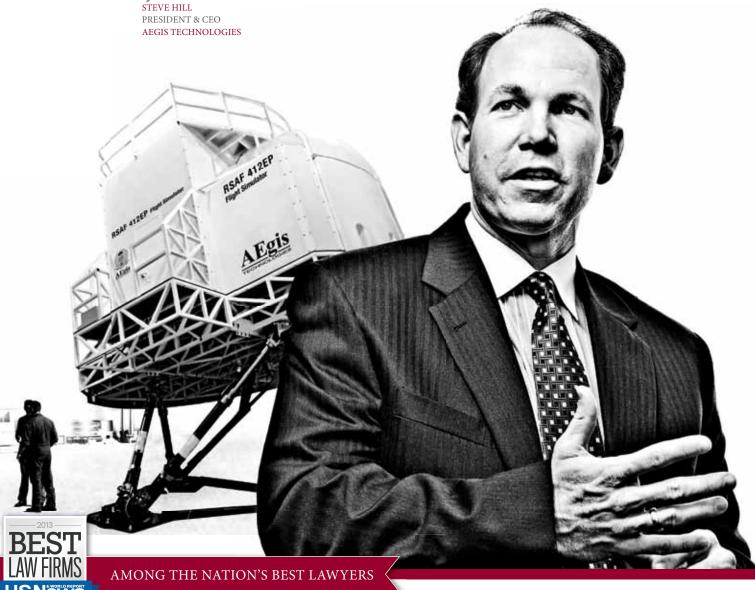
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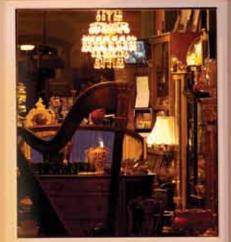




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> Published by Alabama Media Group

Editorial and advertising offices located at 2317 Memorial Parkway SW Huntsville, AL 35801 256.532.4400 phone

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2013–2014 Guide to Huntsville/Madison County, Alabama, is published by Alabama Media Group for the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County



Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County

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For more information about this publication, call 256.532.4284. Alabama Media Group also produces area guides, magazines and other specialty publications.

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Gondands

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Cover photo by Bob Gathany / bgathany@al.com

Welcome



dear friend,

Thank you for picking up a copy of the *2013-14 Guide to Huntsville/Madison County, A Smart Place to Live, Work and Play.* This publication is designed to provide information to both newcomers and long-time residents about the things that power our local economy and make the Huntsville Metropolitan Area such a dynamic business community.

Throughout the guide you will see – in words and photos – examples of what drives our technology-based economy, highlighting such drivers as Redstone Arsenal and Cummings Research Park. The area continues to attract people from across the country based on excellent salaries and career opportunities as well as our high quality of life, low cost of living, short commute times and a thriving arts and recreation community.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the Huntsville Metropolitan Statistical

Area surged in growth to become Alabama's second largest metro. We're excited about that and the growth that is fueled by a diversity of industry including aerospace, defense, biotechnology, computer science and advanced manufacturing.

As the lead economic development organization for Huntsville/Madison County, the Chamber's primary mission is to prepare the community for economic growth, attracting new employers and helping existing industries expand. We accomplish this thanks to Chamber members and public partners investing in the Huntsville Regional Economic Growth Initiative (HREGI), which allows us to recruit targeted industries; help existing employers meet their expansion needs; promote the community's image nationally and internationally; work with our local and regional universities and colleges for economic and workforce development; and continue to create a platform of economic diversity.

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Creative companies

BY DIANA LACHANCE

Huntsville may be best known for its largest employers, like Marshall Space Flight Center, Redstone Arsenal and the 300-plus companies that call Cummings Research Park home. But the city is just as amenable to small businesses and creative start-ups, which is a big part of why the Rocket City was recently named one of the nation's Top Ten Leading Creative Class Metros by The Atlantic Cities.

> Why? There are several reasons, said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. "Most important, Huntsville is more affordable, both in the cost of living and in the cost of doing business, than many other top-ranking cities," he said. "When you are starting out in business, every dollar counts."

Moreover, he continued, "We have a strong, intelligent workforce, and we have

a community that takes networking to the highest level. Maybe part of it is our Southern hospitality, but people in Huntsville really do strive to help each other."

That's something Dan Perry discovered when he co-founded the craft beer brewery Straight to Ale in 2009.

"I'm so pleasantly surprised at the way people support us here in our hometown," It's that kind of helping hand that attests to the city's interest in not only welcoming creative start-ups – whether a brewery, a design house, or a fab lab – but also ensuring their longevity.

said Perry. "We didn't know when we started if people would appreciate the styles of beer we're producing, but I'm amazed at how people have gotten behind us and want us to do well. They go out of their way, even pay a little more, to support the local economy, which is great."

Even among his competition, he said, there is camaraderie.

"We work closely, we're all part of the Alabama Brewers Guild, we share equipment," he said. "We even have a collaboration beer with Blue Pants Brewery and Yellow Hammer Brewing called 'Liberation Smoked Doppelbock' that's about to be released."

Fellow entrepreneur Tom Patterson has also benefited from the support he's received from the community at large, though his expertise is in an entirely different field. Patterson is the owner of Rooster Tail Designs, a professional design house he founded after moving here from San Clemente, Calif., in the early 2000s. Three years ago, Rooster Tail moved from Patterson's house to a studio at Lowe Mill, an eclectic arts center housed in a former historic mill building not far from the city's downtown.

"We're in the Deep South, and we have this cultural center that thrives here," said Patterson. "It just speaks to the type of town of we're in. Not everyone is homegrown here, and the culture has expanded because of that."

And like Perry, Patterson profits from Huntsville's moderate size.

"The community here is a lot smaller than in San Clemente, and it is better that way. It's not as spread out and it's more centrally located," he said. "As a result, the walk-in traffic from the Mill is amazing."

Word-of-mouth business is just as crucial to small-business owner Rob Adams and his recent venture, MindGear Labs. Launched this past Thanksgiving, MindGear is a digital fabrication lab – or "fab lab" – that is open to the public.

"A fab lab is like a woodworking shop or a metal shop where people come in and use equipment," said Adams. "But it's higher-tech and also easier to use."

He's betting MindGear will appeal directly to the city's technologically-minded residents, given the proliferation of engineers who live in Huntsville.

"I thought it was a travesty we didn't have something like this in a high-tech city like Huntsville," he said. "Given the number of technically-minded folks in town, I hope people will want to show up and build things in their free time."

And that's not all.

"I also hope that local businesses, especially small businesses, will use our equipment as a way to build prototypes and enhance their R&D efforts," he said. "We're still working on reaching out to businesses that might have a use for our equipment and capabilities."

To do that, he's taking advantage of the many opportunities offered by city officials





ABOVE: Madison County breweries Straight to Ale, Yellowhammer and Blue Pants collaborated to produce a group of beers in fall 2012 called the Liberation Series.

TOP: Henry Hiller works with the brewing machinery at Straight to Ale Brewery.

Photo by Sarah Cole

and the Chamber of Commerce to expand his circle of potential new clients.

"I've had a lot of experiences with the Chamber, especially with regard to opportunities to network at Chamber events and get insight into how to set up my business," said Adams.

He's not the only one. Perry said he's also received critical assistance from city officials in establishing and expanding Straight to Ale.

"The local officials were really supportive and saw the benefit in tax dollars. They were helpful and they explained what we needed to do," he said. "They understood we weren't trying to brew high-gravity beer just for the alcohol, but that we were trying to get different styles and flavors in."

It also helps that the city is home to a variety of annual events that help promote and bring business to Huntsville's smaller, independently-owned companies. Perry points to the Rocket City Brewfest.

"We work with the city to do an event of that magnitude and they issue the permits we need," he said. "We have absolutely gotten more consumers from that because it exposes us to people who aren't familiar with our beer."

Patterson, too, said his business has also benefited from local support.

"Twice a year, the Huntsville Galleries puts on a tour of the Huntsville Museum of Art and local art galleries and Lowe Mill.

Rooster Tail Designs gets a couple projects from those events alone," he said. "Because it's a big deal for us, we do a lot of planning around it."

It's that kind of helping hand that attests to the city's interest in not only welcoming creative start-ups – whether a brewery, a design house, or a fab lab – but also ensuring their longevity.

"Huntsville," said Mayor Battle, "is the place for success." BELOW: MindGear Labs Director of Operations Tia Wheeler works with member Peter Pryor Jr. to cut an astrolabe on a laser cutter.

> BOTTOM: Owner Rob Adams opened MindGear Labs in November 2012.

> > Photos by Bob Gathany







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THE GATEWAY TO DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE

Twickenham Square

BY KIMBERLY BALLARD

Huntsville is not a city that backs down from a complex challenge. When Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle called five diverse commercial developers to the table, all independently seeking building opportunities in downtown Huntsville, and asked them to forge professional partnerships that would spearhead an unprecedented building project for the state of Alabama, all it took was a little moving and shaking.

> The result is Twickenham Square, a \$100 million commercial development located on nearly three acres at the highprofile corner of Gallatin Street and St. Clair Avenue, adjacent to Huntsville Hospital.

"Twickenham Square began for us two years ago while looking for a location to build a new bank," says Gerry Shannon, a principal at Triad Properties, one of the developers involved in the project. "We were asked to meet with Mayor Battle, who revealed a plan to develop that area for retail shopping, restaurants, a Publix, a hotel, luxury apartments, and a Class A medical office tower, all connected by a state-of-the-art parking deck."

Opening in phases starting in late 2013 – with expected completion by late fall 2014 – Twickenham Square will feature an airy streetscape with pedestrian-only traffic and restaurants with plenty of open-air seating.

"It is hailed to be Huntsville's most exciting urban mixed-use project and economic development jewel," says Shannon. "We certainly believe that Twickenham Square is a game-changer for the city of Huntsville, and it is being touted as the new 'gateway' to downtown."

Along with a proposed Harvard Street extension, at the city core's westernmost end, Twickenham Square will change the skyline over downtown Huntsville.

"It has taken over a year and a half to coordinate, and it has been a challenge bringing so many people together," says Mayor Battle. "We brought in attorneys to draw up the proper agreements and bankers who worked out the financing. We are now on the fast track to transforming about three blocks of land bordering Big Spring Park into a place where we can literally live up to our city theme – a smart place to live, work and play."

W.H. Councill Parking Deck

The ground began to move in late 2012 when the City of Huntsville began constructing the \$10 million four-level W.H. Councill Parking Deck, comprising 951 parking spaces.

"We were the first in and will be the first out," says Jeff Easter, head of the General Services Department of the City of Huntsville. "The deck has several unique aspects. The first floor is very high, giving it an open-air feel. The post-tensioned cast-in-place concrete construction is very modern, with 100 percent LED lighting that saves energy costs."

Most parking decks are pre-cast and assembled in place. They cause an automobile to dip when it hits the joints. The new deck will be a smooth ride from top to bottom.

"It is also an attractive addition to the downtown skyline and touches every other aspect of the development, giving access to shoppers, residents, workers and visitors to downtown," he says. "We certainly believe that Twickenham Square is a game-changer for the city of Huntsville, and it is being touted as the new 'gateway' to downtown."

> Gerry Shannon, principal at Triad Properties

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Huntsville Hospital Health System's Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) is very flexible. Sometimes it's a free clinic for flu shots, while other times it's a place for cholesterol and bone density screenings or one-on-one medical counseling. The MMU can even become the headquarters for a disaster response team, should the need arise. Wherever it goes, the MMU is a valuable resource for our health care team as we reach out to a community in need.

To learn more about the services offered at Huntsville Hospital, visit our website at huntsvillehospital.org/services.







Publix at Twickenham Square

Dudley Parker, principal at PGM Properties, says over a year ago, his group had identified downtown as needing a Publix grocery store.

"We went to Bristol Development and asked, 'How can we help?' We partnered with them to bring a 33,500-square-foot Publix to the deal, complete with pharmacy, deli and a bakery. Twenty-four thousand square feet of commercial and retail shops are a selling point for a chain like Publix. We are glad to be there and proud and happy to be working with the Housing Authority and the City of Huntsville to target people downtown and bring them a much needed service."

Twickenham Place

Triad Properties is developing the five-story, 110,000-square-foot medical office building called Twickenham Place. Designed by Chapman Sisson Architects with Robins & Morton and Fite Building Company handling the construction, which began in January 2013, a bank and retail shops will grace the first floor, which will be structurally smaller than the floors above to accommodate a covered breezeway and drive-thrus. The building will connect to Huntsville Hospital via an air-conditioned skyway bridge, providing pedestrian access to and from the hospital. The parking deck will connect on the top four levels with an elevator in the lobby.

Huntsville Hospital is moving its clinical lab to this location, and a large doctors' group will occupy the fifth floor. The hospital will maintain 250 parking spaces in the deck.

"On any given day, 20,000 people come in and out of Huntsville Hospital. Forty percent of them are from outside Madison County," Shannon says. "Now people can visit a patient in the hospital, walk across the bridge where there is a Publix, a variety of restaurants and plenty of shopping. If they are visiting someone in the hospital from out of town, there is a Homewood Suites hotel within walking distance."

Homewood Suites at Twickenham Square

"We develop and manage hotels – that is what we do for a living, so bringing an upscale Hilton product like Homewood Suites to a unique development like Twickenham Square is very exciting," says Hunt. "Homewood Suites is an extended day hotel with kitchens in every room. Rates include a hot meal Monday through Thursday, and a free breakfast every day, but having a Publix and restaurants within walking distance provides a great dynamic."

The Shops at Twickenham Square

According to Sam Yeager, co-founder and principal at Bristol Development Group, there will be 7,000 square feet of retail space. "The upscale Shops at Twickenham Square anchored by the big Publix will appeal to people who live in the historic district and Twickenham itself. We are extremely excited to be a part of this venture and believe it will also bring a level of convenience for the thousands of employees who work downtown."

Wesley Crunkleton, CPM and a qualifying broker at Crunkleton & Associates, is providing leasing services for Twickenham Square. "It is truly the first major urban development in downtown Huntsville. We have limited retail space available, and the interest level has been tremendous during the pre-leasing stage. We are currently talking to some great new restaurant concepts I know Huntsville will enjoy."

The Artisan at Twickenham Square

Bristol is also developing the Artisan at Twickenham Square, which will be 246 one- and two-bedroom luxury apartments that feature granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and a private courtyard with a pool. The Artisan will begin leasing in late 2013. Leases will run \$1,000 to \$1,800 a month.



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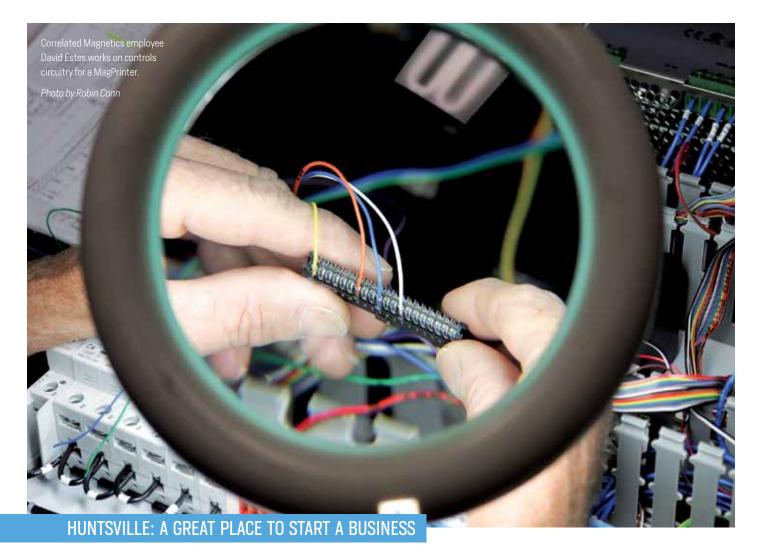


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Ready for launch

BY ANNA THIBODEAUX

Drawn to Huntsville's broad and deep technology mindset, Correlated Magnetics Research represents the kind of high-tech firm that finds the area an appealing place to locate.

"For our young company, the Huntsville area has provided access to the best and brightest people in technology today," said Ron Jewell, the company's vice president of sales and marketing. "We are growing, and that's not an easy thing to do without the high-quality engineering and technology talent that Huntsville offers."

Being in the area affords face-to-face interaction with leading companies in defense, aerospace, automotive, electronics, biomedical and manufacturing industries, Jewell said, when explaining the qualities that lured the company to launch in the Rocket City.

Huntsville is a community with the resources to foster startups and small businesses, particularly within high-tech industries.

Correlated Magnetics, which makes programmable magnets with multiple applications, wants to take advantage of

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Main campus: 3421 Meridian Street, North - Huntsville Now Offering Classes in Downtown Huntsville Huntsville's substantial synergies that promote development and expansion. The company has 17 full-time employees, a number expected to double in size within a year.

"There are only a few such diverse population centers in the country," Jewell said of Huntsville. "Our technology is brand new and looks to affect many applications across all major industrial sectors. Such a new capability can be best exploited by the type of technology organizations right in the area."

According to Jewell, any business prospecting the Huntsville area for its company site should consider where it will find the guidance needed "to steer a successful course in a growth mode," such as finding an "incredible concentration of advanced technology organizations and people."

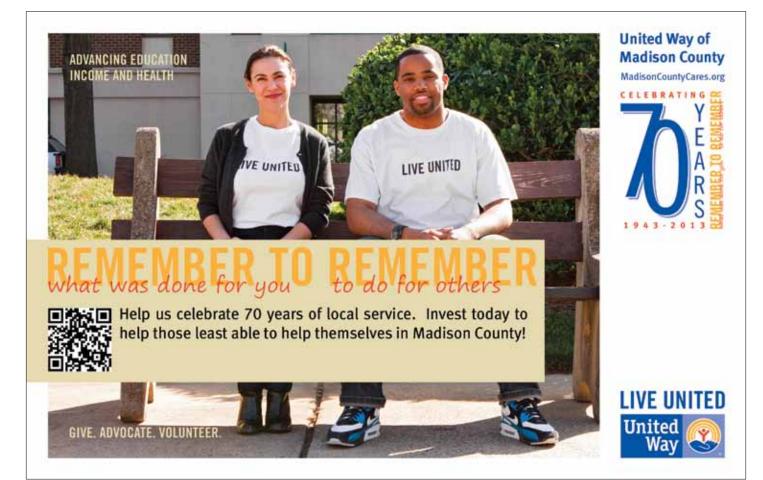
A highly educated workforce is the area's No. 1 draw for companies looking to relocate or expand, said Ethan Hadley, vice president of economic development with the Chamber



Correlated Magnetics CEO Larry Fullerton holds a print head device for a MagPrinter. *Photo by Robin Conn*

of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County.

Workers are available to meet the area's primary industries, including defense, aerospace, life sciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing. Additionally, the area's affordable standard of living and cost of doing business – along with Redstone Arsenal and a wealth of high-tech companies – also make Madison County one of the nation's most attractive metro areas for new business growth.



"As a manageably-sized metro area in the Southeast - the region of the country most commonly associated with a low cost of doing business - Huntsville is a great place for established companies to relocate or establish new operations," Hadley said. "Couple this with a strong mentor-protégé mentality amongst successful, and sometimes 'serial,' entrepreneurs and business executives, and you have a community that fosters start-ups and small businesses."

The U.S. Army and Redstone Arsenal are the area's largest employers with 36,000 workers. Other major employers include NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center and the Huntsville Hospital System, each with about 6,000 employees.

Government contractors include The Boeing Company, Dynetics, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

At 300 companies strong, Cummings Research Park sprawls over 11.3 million square feet, home to about 25,000 jobs. A highly educated workforce is the area's No. 1 draw for companies looking to relocate or expand. Additionally, the area's affordable standard of living and cost of doing business – along with Redstone Arsenal and a wealth of high-tech companies – also make Madison County one of the nation's most attractive metro areas for new business growth.

According to David King, Dynetics executive vice president, CRP "has given the city an R&D arm. It makes it easy for a business to come in and set up in an area that is close to customers and partners, and it provides a wonderful environment for people to work."

Dynetics' history with the industrial park

dates back to the early 1980s. "We believe we have built some great facilities in CRP, which not only serve their purposes, but also provide a great environment for our employees to work and be creative," King said. "Cummings Research Park allows us to have our facilities in a great location that makes it easier for us to do business."

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"Cummings Research Park allows us to have our facilities in a great location that makes it easier for us to do business."

> – David King, executive vice president of Dynetics

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The industrial park provides the arsenal with critical support in the fields of science, engineering and other core technical areas.

Col. John Hamilton, garrison commander at the arsenal, said CRP began as a public- private initiative, and the park has become a symbol for the synergistic growth of the Tennessee Valley.

"Redstone Arsenal, as it stands today, would not exist without the support given by the companies represented throughout CRP," Hamilton said. "Nor would CRP enjoy the recognition it receives as the fourth largest research park in the world without the support it receives from Redstone Arsenal."

Economically, the 38,000-acre Redstone Arsenal represents \$50 billion a year in contracts and a 36,000-member workforce of military, government and on-site contractor personnel. The government workforce is highly educated, with more than 68 percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher, working in science and engineering, logistics management, acquisition and contracting.

The large pool of technical expertise, maintained through aerospace and defense contracts, helps provide the community with the highest concentration of engineers in the country and is vital to supporting U.S. Department of Defense and NASA programs, as well as many other commercial technology applications.

According to Hadley, expansion is anticipated in CRP along with the Jetplex Industrial Park, Redstone Gateway Park and in emerging growth areas in north and west Huntsville. The Rocket City's downtown area is also starting to attract new investment, including a larger commercial and residential core.

The area's economic attractors also include a regional health care system that is one of the largest in the U.S. and a Huntsville City School system that reflects the high-tech community with its development of digital curricula. Huntsville also has excellent transportation infrastructure, including Huntsville International Airport, which is home to one of the nation's premier inland ports.



David King, executive vice president at Dynetics, and Gary Wentz, President and CEO of Stratolaunch Systems. *Photo by Eric Schultz*

"Huntsville is best known for its rich technology base," Hadley said. "Beyond aerospace and defense, Huntsville also brings innovation to a variety of industry sectors, including information technology, advanced manufacturing and life sciences, among others."

Various entities on Redstone Arsenal are developing leading-edge technologies that serve the nation in a variety of ways, from defense to space exploration to homeland security. The installation provides a dense customer base for small, medium and large government contractor companies. Cummings Research Park and, more recently, Redstone Gateway Park, offer cost-effective real estate solutions for all sizes of companies looking to start, locate and grow businesses in Huntsville.

Huntsville/Madison County is a community that thrives on working together through initiatives like the Huntsville Association of Small Business in Advanced Technology and the Von Braun Center for Science & Innovation. Also, BizTech is a technology incubator in Huntsville for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/ Madison County identifies more than 450 aerospace and defense contracting companies in the area. Many of them perform technology research and development in support of Redstone Arsenal activities.

According to Hadley, "Businesses that take advantage of the sense of community and networking opportunities make Huntsville unique. In large part, it is our size that makes this environment possible – not too big, not too small."

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FAMILIES FALL IN LOVE WITH ALL THE CITY HAS TO OFFER

Putting down roots

BY DIANA LACHANCE

As a Southern city, Huntsville shares many of the region's most well-known traditions – ice tea by the gallon, fried catfish that can't be beat, and warm summer evenings spent on the front porch. But it's also something of a cultural anomaly, given the diversity of its residents, many of whom have moved here from cities across the country.

> For that reason, newcomers to the Rocket City are often surprised by just how cosmopolitan – and technologically advanced – Huntsville is. It's not uncommon to hear them use phrases like "pleasantly surprised" and "very impressed" when asked to describe their experience upon arriving.

> That's certainly the case with Jennifer Johnson, who moved here from Colorado

Springs with her husband Adam and 13-year-old daughter Miranda last November. As a Florida native, she was already familiar with the South's enviable reputation for hospitality. But, she said, she had no idea that Huntsville would be so sophisticated as well.

"We had never been here before and weren't familiar with the area, but this place is crazy with technology!" said Johnson.



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"I couldn't believe it when I got here. Huntsville is a very dynamic city."

And since they've arrived, they haven't looked back. She and her husband have found it easy to meet people.

"We've met people in our neighborhood, I've met a few people in a painting class I'm doing at Spirited Art, and I've met people through a knitting class that my friend teaches," she said.

Jennifer is especially pleased with how happy her daughter has been since the cross-country move.

"Huntsville is definitely a great place to raise kids – it's family-friendly here, there are great values, and I think it's safe, generally speaking," she said. "Miranda is adjusting very well and she loves Discovery Middle School. She has just flourished. So we couldn't be happier with our decision to move. We love it here!"

Thus, after moving numerous times for Adam's eight-year stint in the military, Jennifer said they are finally ready to "put down roots and try to stay in one place for a while." They recently purchased a house in the Reserve at the Bridgefield subdivision in Madison.

"It's beautiful there, it's quiet, it's well kept, and it's close to Bob Jones High School, where Miranda will go next year," said Jennifer, who added that it's more affordable than a similar home in Colorado.

Fellow newcomer Liwu Hsu and his wife Suchen Lin can attest to that, having moved from much pricier Boston to Huntsville this past summer. Hsu, who was born and raised in Taiwan, came to America to pursue a Ph.D. in marketing from Boston University. But upon earning his degree, he faced an extremely competitive job market.

"It's very tough to get a job in the marketing job market," said Hsu, explaining that, on average, applicants must submit 100 applications to get a single job. "So I actually applied not just in the U.S., but also in Europe and Asia and even Australia." He ended up with two job offers, one from the City University of Hong Kong and one from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

He decided to pursue the UAH offer, for several reasons. First, he said, "I think the U.S. is still a leading country for research in terms of training, people and environment." Second, he liked that UAH offered a balance between research and teaching. "Some schools are focused more on

"Some schools are focused more on



research, so you'll have a lighter teaching load but you have to publish more," he said. "Others, you need to teach a lot but they don't have high expectations of your research. So it depends on what you love, and I love both."

And third, he was impressed with the university's tight-knit and supportive environment. "Everyone here is very nice and that's what I was looking for. Some of my friends got jobs at different schools, but they work alone and don't really see faculty around," Hsu said. "But not here. Everyone comes to school every day so you have lots of opportunities to learn from them or just chat with them. It's very nice to me."

As for Huntsville itself, he saw it for the first time during the interview process and took an immediate liking.

"During the interview, they brought me around the city and we visited some local restaurants, and I felt it could satisfy my needs with regard to the quality of life," he said. "I don't like cities that are too crowded, like Boston. So when I came here, I felt more relaxed." After taking everything into account, he accepted the job; today, Hsu is an assistant professor of marketing at UAH. He and Lin live in Madison and enjoy the relative peace and quiet that living in a smaller city brings.

"If you like a more natural environment, lots of outdoor activities, this is really a good place to live," he said. "It's not too rural. It's kind of in the middle – most stores we visited in Boston, we can find here."

Hsu said without hesitation that he is here for the long run.

"Absolutely we'll stay for a while. I like UAH, I really enjoy the environment. I treasure this opportunity," he said.

Johnson and Hsu share two unique stories, two different reasons for moving, two families at different stages in their lives. But what they have in common is their unexpected appreciation of a city that is vibrant and multicultura. And they are not alone. Each year, many new families move to the Huntsville area and make the same discovery about this special Southern metro area. "Huntsville is definitely a great place to raise kids – it's family–friendly here, there are great values, and I think it's safe. We couldn't be happier with our decision to move. We love it here!"

> – Jennifer Johnson, on moving to Huntsville

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Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski visited students at Goldsmith Schiffman Elementary, including 2nd-grader Jullian Boles, on the first day of school to observe students and faculty using electronic media in lieu of textbooks as part of the 1:1 Digital Initiative. Photo by Dave Dieter

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS

Schools going global

BY KEM ROPER

Madison County offers students of all ages, skill levels and learning abilities an opportunity to achieve excellence. In this future-focused region, education is not limited to the classroom. Students test their skills in the "real world" – both virtual and physical.

Recent enhancements in local classroom technologies and partnerships with area tech companies have opened possibilities and extended resources past the typical brick-and-mortar experience.

Huntsville City Schools

The Huntsville City School System serves more than 23,000 students and offers a variety of magnet programs. Additional career tech offerings in culinary arts, cosmetology and engineering expand the student experience beyond books. By using their hands as well as their minds, students benefit from a more comprehensive education.

One of the most noteworthy recent developments in Huntsville City Schools has been the 1:1 Digital Initiative. Textbooks have been eliminated so that students use laptops, netbooks and iPads in the classroom, and they also receive more personalized instruction. Assessment tools help determine, in real-time, each student's level of performance to quickly identify academic strengths and weaknesses.

As a result, educator effectiveness increases and student achievement accelerates.

"This giant leap to a personalized digital learning environment already has shown marked improvement in student engagement," said Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski.

Madison City Schools

The rapidly growing Madison City School system currently serves 9,400 students and boasts student standardized test scores above the national average. Because of the area's continued growth, a second high school opened in fall 2011.

Madison Mayor Troy Trulock calls the school system a "shining star," and Superintendent Dr. Dee Fowler said "all residents of Madison work collegially to make our schools the best."

For the past six years, Bob Jones High School has been named one of the top high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek and The Washington Post.

Madison students are community-minded as well. For example, students from the new James Clemens High School partnered with the Madison City Disability Advocacy Board to produce an informational video to raise awareness about handicapped parking challenges. Both schools offer a range of advanced placement and honors courses, as well as career academies like business and marketing, engineering, medical, agriscience and IT/computer science.

Madison County Schools

The mission of the Madison County School System – which serves more than 20,000 students in the areas outside of Huntsville and Madison city limits – is to provide a wide range of educational opportunities for gifted students and emerging learners. Hands-on, real-world learning is a priority: elementary students run their own broadcasting stations, and medical academy students make rounds at the hospital. High school journalists





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Students from Whitesburg Middle School show their Future City model to judges and visitors at the Regional Alabama Future City Competition at the UAHuntsville Shelby Center. *Photo by Bob Gathany*



Students from Weatherly Heights Elementary plant flowers in raised beds during a workday in which students, parents and community volunteers transformed an outdoor courtyard into the Weatherly Heights Outdoor Classroom. *Photo by Bob Gathany*



A student uses an oxy fuel cutter to cut a steel plate during a state welding competition hosted at Drake State Technical College. *Photo by Dave Dieter*

publish newspapers like *The Crimson Crier* at Sparkman High School or manage their own businesses, such as the Coffee Shop at Hazel Green High.

In addition, said Superintendent Dr. David Copeland, "The Madison County School System collaborates with many community and business partners to enhance educational opportunities for students."

Private Schools

Both the public and private school systems of Huntsville have something to offer, said Trudy Odle, president of Huntsville/Madison Private School Association. There are more than 20 privately funded schools in the Madison County area, offering students a more intimate setting and a smaller student/ teacher ratio.

"Some of our students need a different kind of setting" said Odle, citing for example those who attend the Greengate School, which specializes in educating students with dyslexia. Several area private schools are faith-based, and several cater to students with specialized learning needs.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Madison County's institutions of higher learning provide a wide range of academic disciplines. These schools often partner with area businesses to enhance their curricula, and also collaborate with area high schools to give younger students an academic head start.

Alabama A&M University

Alabama A&M University is a fully accredited, nearly 140-year-old land-grant institution with a rich history and emphasis on being a small college with the opportunities of a research university.

In addition to offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees, A&M also hosts numerous professional associations and organizations. With more than 5,000 students, AAMU has a state, regional, national and international presence. AAMU, in cooperation with local businesses, industrial and governmental agencies, and other institutions, provides a laboratory where theory is put into practice in a productive environment.

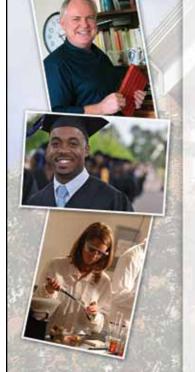
University of Alabama in Huntsville

The University of Alabama in Huntsville ranks among *U.S. News & World Report's* Tier 1 national universities. Currently about 7,700 graduate and undergraduate students are enrolled at UAH, and incoming freshmen have ACT scores that are among the highest in Alabama's public universities.

Through its five colleges - Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Nursing, and Science - UAH offers 71 degrees, including 33 bachelor's degree programs, 23 master's degree programs, and 15 Ph.D. programs. These programs are successful: UAH ranks second in the state for return on college investment.



Area high school students participate in CollegeFirst, a summer enrichment program hosted at UAHuntsville. *Photo by Dave Dieter*



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- Calhoun has the state's first and only associate's degree program in Biotechnology, which began Fall 2007 in partnership with the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology?
- Calhoun is home to the Alabama Robotics Technology Park?
- According to a 2012 report from the Alabama Community College System, Calhoun's economic impact to the community and state is substantial? Total local economic impact is \$279,284,280 for a return on \$1 investment (ROI) of 12.1, the highest among the state's two-year colleges.



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Oakwood University

Oakwood University, a historically black Seventh-day Adventist college, consistently ranks among the nation's "Best Colleges" by *U.S. News and World Report.*

The 1,186-acre campus hosts more than 2,000 students from 41 states and 30 foreign countries. This SACS-accredited institution, offering 52 degrees in such fields as biology, business and education, in addition to an adult degree completion program called LEAP, is community-minded. Assistant Vice President of Service-Learning, Careers & Student Employment, Pat Daniels, said outreach is embedded in every aspect of Oakwood's curriculum "to develop a worldview that includes service as a way of life."

Calhoun Community College

Situated in North Alabama's high-technology corridor, Calhoun Community College is among the region's most successful economic and workforce development engines, providing educational and training opportunities to nearly 5,000 students and dozens of area industries, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, The Boeing Company, NASA and 3M.

"As a productive member of the higher educational landscape in North Alabama, Calhoun continues to successfully meet the educational and training demands of a unique and highly diverse population," said Janet Kincherlow-Martin, assistant to the president for public affairs.

J.F. Drake State Technical College

J. F. Drake State Technical College offers two-year degrees in business and information technologies, engineering technologies, manufacturing and applied technologies, salon management & culinary arts/ hospitality services management and health sciences.

In the spring of 2010, Drake began offering classes in the historic Times Building in downtown Huntsville. Along with new NSF-funded projects, the college will offer summer camps for middle school and high school students, professional development for high school and college faculty teaching technology and physics courses, and state-of-the-art laboratories, including a 3-D visualization lab and a nanotechnology experimentation lab. "We are delighted to be offering our students access to financially-rewarding career opportunities with the high-technology industries of the local area," said Drake State President Dr. Helen T. McAlpine. ■



Kindergarteners and first graders at Lynn Fanning Elementary participate in Boosterthon, a school event designed to help kids learn ways to be healthy by staying active. *Photo by Eric Schultz*



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State-of-the-art care

BY KIMBERLY BALLARD

With health care costs rising in major metro areas across the country, Huntsville ranks well below the national average, with the fourth lowest costs out of the top ten comparable technology communities, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER).

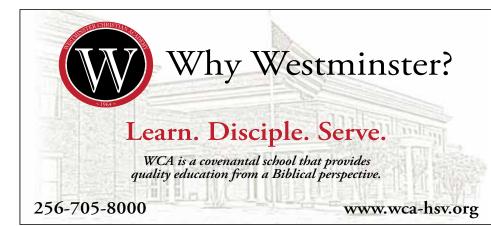
The low healthcare cost has nothing to do with quality or quantity of services available. In fact, both of Huntsville's regional medical centers significantly expanded in the last year to incorporate new facilities in the City of Madison, while Huntsville's cancer treatment and research center has broken through many barriers in disease detection.

Whether you bring with you to Huntsville aging parents, children with disabilities, personal ailments that require the most cutting-edge treatments, or you are seeking aesthetic dental and personal care services, you will find plenty of reassurance in Huntsville – a city on the fast track to the future in health care services.

Regional Medical Centers

Huntsville Hospital is one of the fastest growing hospital systems in the Southeast.

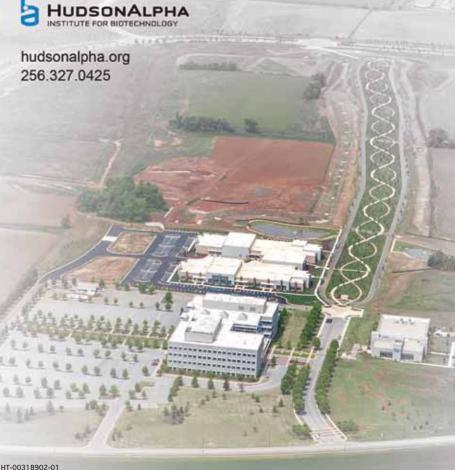
"The development of Huntsville Hospital Health System over the past five years is evidence that healthcare providers in the



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Out of 3,400 hospitals submitting accountability measure data to The Joint Commission, Crestwood Medical Center was one of only 620 to meet or exceed the target rates of performance for 2011.



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Tennessee Valley are taking the lead in improving the quality of care to benefit their patients and communities," said David Spillers, chief executive officer of Huntsville Hospital Health System.

"Huntsville Hospital Health System is the result of a fast-changing economic environment that is driving collaboration among like-minded hospitals and other providers in the region. Although we have experienced a great deal of change, we have not changed our commitment to provide the community with one of the best health care systems in America – best in quality and in patient safety."

Today, the not-for-profit Huntsville Hospital System includes the Huntsville Women & Children's facility; Athens Limestone Hospital; the new Madison Hospital that opened in early 2012; Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield; Decatur Morgan Hospital and Parkway Medical Center both located in Decatur; Lawrence Medical Center in Moulton; and the Hartselle Medical Center acquired in 2012.

Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children has delivered more babies than any other facility in the state, and Huntsville Hospital serves as the region's trauma center.

The new 60-bed Madison Hospital was built with future expansion to 200 beds in mind. The airy, contemporary facility includes a 24/7 emergency department, an intensive care unit, maternity services, general medicine inpatient care, surgical services, imaging and laboratory services, physical therapy, and non-invasive cardiology services.

Mary Lynne Wright, president of Madison Hospital, said the facility is poised to grow alongside the community and add services as the need arises.

"We are excited to fulfill our commitment to provide important services close to home," Wright said. "Since opening on Feb. 28, 2012, we experienced many 'firsts' – first inpatient admission, first surgery, first newborn delivery – and the list goes on. We also opened Madison Hospital Breast Center, the city's first breast imaging center for screening mammography, and we brought a general surgeon to the community who now lives in Madison."

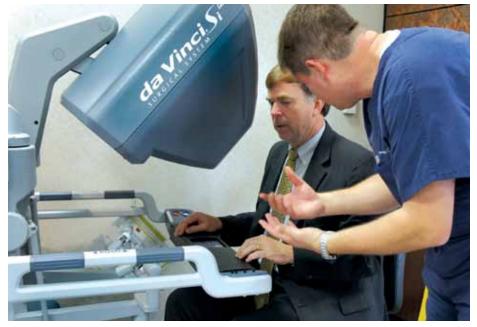


Local icon Liz Hurley celebrates the start of the 9th Annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K. In 2012, the run drew more than 6,000 runners and raised over \$268,000 for the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. *Photo by Bob Gathany*



The Huntsville Hospital Center for Women & Children has delivered more babies than ay other facility in the state.





Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle gets a look at the da Vinci Robotic Assisted Surgery system at Crestwood Medical Center.

Across town, Crestwood Medical Center is known for having an advanced surgical system. Crestwood Robotic Services opened with the vaunted da Vinci Robotic Assisted Surgery in 2011. The robotic surgery device performs less invasive surgical procedures, resulting in less bleeding and less scarring. This translates into shorter recovery times so patients can go home sooner.

The da Vinci had so much success, CMC upgraded its capabilities in 2012 with the newer da Vinci Si, a single-incision device

useful in many gynecological procedures, prostate, kidney and urologic surgeries. It has been especially successful in laparoscopic gallbladder surgery; the traditional procedure took four incisions, but now only takes one with the da Vinci Si. CMC is the only hospital in North Alabama offering single incision robotic capabilities.

CMC's general surgeon Dr. Dennis Fernandez was the first surgeon in North Alabama to perform a single site gallbladder surgery using the Si. He is now approaching Crestwood Medical Center recently opened a new diagnostic facility in Madison.

Photo by Bob Gathany

his 100th case. Urologist Dr. Keith Jiminez was the first in North Alabama to use the da Vinci Si "Firefly" technology to perform kidney surgery.

CMC is growing as well, having opened a new Crestwood Diagnostic Center on Hughes Road in Madison. The new outpatient center offers various imaging services, digital mammography,

laboratory services and an adult and pediatric sleep disorder clinic.

Cancer treatment & research

After more than 25 years of cancer research, Clearview Cancer Institute is responsible for 30+ scientific breakthroughs of new FDA-approved cancer fighting treatments for breast cancer, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, lymphoma, colon and pancreatic cancer, and lung cancer.

In addition to the Phase I, II and III clinical trials performed at CCI, the institute has made unprecedented breakthroughs in lung cancer treatments. As little as six years ago, there were no pre-screening capabilities for detecting lung cancer. A diagnosis came long after symptoms such as chronic coughing had begun.

"There has always been a stigma on smokers who develop lung cancer, which said, 'You did it to yourself,'" said CCI's Dr. Marshall T. Schreeder. "Perhaps that is true, but tobacco is highly addictive and therefore it is very difficult to quit. Through CCI's Russel Hill Foundation and a grant from Huntsville's HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, we have a mission and obligation to the community to investigate early prevention measures and treatments for lung cancer, right here at home." Schreeder said that in a recent study taken over a seven-year span of 50,000 smokers who have smoked a pack a day for 25 years or more, routine low dose CT scans with routine chest x-rays brought the mortality rate in that high risk group down by about 20 percent.

"We have not found a cure for lung cancer, but along with smoking cessation programs, regular screenings, and treatments that do not ruin quality of life, we can now give lung cancer patients months and even years of life, when just a few years ago that was not possible."

CCI treats more than 350 patients a day and has a staff of 14 physicians located in a 115,000-square-foot facility.

Family wellness

From family walk-in clinics and urgent care centers, to specialists and alternative medicine options, new Huntsville residents can be assured that if they suffer from any form of chronic pain or back problems or old sports injuries, or require rehabilitation services or physical therapy, Huntsville has no shortage of quality family healthcare services.

"We treat our patient's mind, body, and spirit," said Dr. Christopher Hoover of Healthsource Chiropractic and Progressive Rehab of Madison. "We offer progressive rehabilitation combined with periodic adjustments to treat the various needs of each patient, and we provide long term care plans specific to correcting each individual's symptoms."

Huntsville also offers the most innovative techniques in family and cosmetic dentistry.

"Every step of our patient care involves the latest advancements in technology to enhance the patients overall oral health," said Dr. Sonya Wintzell of the Dental Professionals on Whitesburg. "Digital radiographs, immunofluorescence cavity detection, and salivary diagnostic tools help us diagnose dental disease. Computer generated restorations, digital bite scans, and laser treatments help us ensure that the care we deliver is of the highest quality, and meets the patients concerns for restorations that are as beautiful as they are functional." Committed to Alabama.

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Redstone Arsenal

BY ANNA THIBODEAUX

Redstone Arsenal is a national treasure. It is an Army installation that functions more like a federal office park. Sprawling over 38,125 acres, about 11 miles long and seven miles wide, the arsenal and its 35,000 employees dwarf the Pentagon's 3.7 million square feet of office space and 23,000 employees.

It is home to numerous agencies and contracting partners with broad-based technical capabilities and specialties. Although Redstone made history during the Space Race of the 1960s, it is poised for tremendous growth into the future.

Topping a list of new developments is Raytheon Company which recently cut the ribbon on its \$75 million missile integration facility, a project expected to bring 300 more jobs to the area over the next two years. The U.S. Department of Justice has broken ground for a Terrorist Explosive Devices Analytical Center, a new facility for the Federal Bureau of Investigation that represents the newest addition to a growing Intelligence and Homeland Defense presence on the Arsenal.

Garrison Commander Col. John Hamilton said Redstone is a unique kind of Army base.

"Although it is in fact an active U.S. Army military installation, it is home to other

organizations that are not part of the U.S. Department of Army," Hamilton said. "Due to the multi-faceted, multi-functional organizations on the arsenal, Redstone could better define itself as a federal office park."

With \$60 billion of contracts annually funneling through the arsenal, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said Redstone is "the foundation of our economic success." Of total contracts, nearly \$16 billion of that stimulus stays in the local economy.

Battle calls Redstone a partner in "our success and working for a better community."

While the installation represents jobs, its purpose is to provide technology, engineering and missile defense capabilities. These are all sectors that, he said, make Huntsville a special place and are considerably bolstered by the arsenal and Cummings Research Park.

Redstone employs more than 35,000 people from throughout the Tennessee Valley, a figure that has consistently grown. This figure grew significantly after 2005 with the federal military base realignment, better known as BRAC. That round of BRAC also represented \$426 million in construction projects and BRAC operations funding of \$422 million.

While the base realignment contributed significantly to Redstone's expansion, its logistics role with area non-Department of Defense contractors, particularly in Cummings Research Park, remains a substantial contributor to overall growth. Combined workforce salary for military, government civilians and onsite contractors represents \$3.1 billion a year to the Huntsville metro area.

According to an Office of Economic Adjustment study, the arsenal has an overall economic impact of \$11.5 billion, representing 6 percent of Alabama's GDP. This equates to \$4.5 billion in wages and salaries going out the gate of Redstone Arsenal to communities throughout the Tennessee Valley.

"The organizations making up the core of the Arsenal's identity have come together extremely well and allow for synergies, which provide great support to our nation,"



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Redstone: Past & Present

BRAC 1988:

Moved the Central Test Measurement & Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Activity from Lexington–Bluegrass Army Depot to RSA

BRAC 1991:

Moved the Armament, Munitions & Chemical Command (AMCCOM) from Rock Island to RSA; Redirected the Material Readiness Support Activity from Lexington–Blue Grass Army Depot (was slated for Letterkenny in BRAC '88) and Logistics Control Activity from Presidio to RSA (later became LOGSA)

BRAC 1993:

Reversed the decision to move the AMCCOM from Rock Island to RSA

BRAC 1995:

Moved the Aviation mission component of the Aviation & Troop Command (ATCOM), Aviation Research & Development Center (ARDEC), and PEO Aviation from St. Louis to RSA and merged with Missile Command, Missile RDEC and formed AMCOM and AMRDEC

BRAC 2005:

Moved the following agencies to RSA:

Headquarters Army Materiel Command

Headquarters U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command

Headquarters U.S. Army Security Assistance Command

Missile Defense Agency

Redstone Test Center

2nd Recruiting Brigade

2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion

Total RSA workforce population has increased from about 24,500 in 2004 to more than 35,000 today.



The NASA test stand is seen in this aerial view at Redstone Arsenal.

Hamilton said. "NASA, Missile Defense Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center, elements of the FBI and ATF from the U.S. Department of Justice all are key elements of Redstone Arsenal."

The installation is home to more than 55 major organizations that support national security and focus on key operations, including materiel management and acquisition, space operations and missile defense, intelligence and homeland defense, research, development, and test and evaluation. They represent a significant contribution towards supporting the national security of the nation.

Redstone also substantially contributes to Huntsville attracting new business growth.

Hamilton said the variety of technical specialties and the intellectual power that combine to make the arsenal a "national treasure" with strategic impact also attract commercial enterprise to Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley.

The new Redstone Gateway business park, once completed, will provide additional space for those companies working closely with Redstone Arsenal or the Marshall Space Flight Center.

"Opportunities abound in the area, especially in the fields of science and engineering, as well as logistics and management," Hamilton said. "Cyber security is an up and coming field that is receiving much attention."

Redstone and the Tennessee Valley have a tremendous history of past achievements, all of which indicate the Arsenal's outlook is bright.

"Our local communities are all inextricably linked to Redstone Arsenal, coming together for over 70 years to write a proud history of support and innovation, building an enduring national defense and economic success story," he said. "We proudly host a large defense sector, yet we also enjoy a diverse and broad-based portfolio of other industrial components which include space, information technology, biotechnology, and other advanced manufacturing capabilities."

The region enjoys the benefits of a highly educated and well-trained workforce, which remains its most valuable resource.

"Our top notch educational and research facilities continue to inspire creativity and ingenuity in such fields as computer science, mathematics, engineering, science and physics," Hamilton said.

The community provides many advantages through its positive economic capacities and support.

The arsenal has distinct advantages with its many "one-of-a-kind facilities and potential to support additional growth," he said. The transformational synergies created through the accumulation of organizations and their functions support multiple processes. The arsenal provides an exceptional environment to support and provide inter-agency cooperation.

"Redstone Arsenal is a truly a federal center of excellence, which provides our nation with a unique set of capabilities found nowhere else," Hamilton said. "What makes Team Redstone exceptional is the synergy created by a diversity of agencies and commands both on and off the Arsenal. From space operations and missile defense; logistics services and contracting support; intelligence and homeland defense activities; to some of the finest research, development, test and engineering resources in the world, the 35,000 professionals comprising 'Team Redstone' are committed to supporting our nation each and every day."



Army soldiers fire a Javelin missile during testing.



Army Materiel Command Headquarters is on Redstone Arsenal. *Photo by Michael Mercier*



Executive Officer for the Assistant Commissioner of Air and Marine Carlos Castrillo checks out the cockpit of a UH–60 M Black Hawk helicopter after a transfer of ownership ceremony to the Department of Homeland Defense, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Agency at the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center's Prototype Integration Facility. *Photo by Robin Conn*

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Prestige & collaboration

BY ANNA THIBODEAUX

Technology developed in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park has been changing the world since the 1960s – when the first tenant, Teledyne Brown Engineering, moved in – and there are no plans for slowing down anytime soon.

> There are more than 300 companies doing business in Cummings Research Park, making CRP the second largest R&D park in the country.

"There are many organizations that want to be in the park and there are many different reasons for that," said CRP Director John Southerland. "A foundational reason for a company to locate in CRP is the proximity to Redstone Arsenal and the numerous program offices there. However, the unique value of the park is the diversity of the businesses there."

What attracts people and companies, Southerland said, is that CRP remains a destination spot for high-tech businesses that want to take advantage of a beautiful location, a highly educated workforce and a low cost of living compared to other technology-driven communities.

"When you look at CRP West today – Dynetics, ADTRAN and HudsonAlpha – all feature gorgeous facilities and campuses that illustrate the growth and diversity of the park," he said.

And still the park continues to diversify with the arrival of Wyle, building a stateof-the-art facility on Bob Heath Drive near Old Madison Pike. Dynetics recently occupied its new \$50 million solutions complex, and HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology is finishing its third facility on its campus. Despite the 3,843-acre park's impressive occupancy, it still has 440 acres available for growth.

According to Southerland, aerospace and defense have been and continue to be the park's backbone.

While the park was initially more aerospace-focused, as it has grown, the support for the U.S. Army and U.S. Department of Defense has been a driver.

Many of the companies in CRP work closely together in targeted areas of aerospace and defense. Then there is HudsonAlpha, which was created to build on the symbiotic relationship between research, science and industry.

"It is viewed, correctly, as one of the premier technology centers in the United States," Southerland said of CRP. "It's a great selling point for the community, but just as much for the businesses. They all have customers and clients, and you will often hear how impressed those clients were to see the park and the companies that have an office there."

CRP's key drivers are location and available workforce.

"This community has the highest ratio of engineers in the nation and one of the highest ratios of information technology workers in the nation," said Southerland. CRP companies employ about 25,000 workers.

The park's foundation for growth has long been Redstone Arsenal, whether through supporting NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center or the U.S. Army.

"But to not be so dependent on the federal government budget, there is growing diversity in the kinds of technology developed in the park," Southerland explained. "Companies like Digium, Baron Services, ADTRAN, Synapse Wireless and organizations like HudsonAlpha are not dependent on the programs at Redstone, which is critical for the diversification of the park and the local economy."

Targeted growth industries for CRP remain aerospace, defense, life sciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing. The park requires companies have a primary research-anddevelopment focus, but manufacturing and prototyping can also be found there.

"We continue to recruit heavily in these industry sectors because that continues to be our strength and the catalyst for our growth," Southerland said.

The park's record for discovery speaks for itself.

Park tenants were critical partners throughout the Apollo program and have been involved in many space science programs since, such as the world's first inhabitable space station (Skylab), the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station.

Baron Services focuses on developing faster, more accurate detection and notification of potentially devastating weather events. Researchers in Hudson-Alpha's non-profit and for-profit sectors are collaborating on cutting-edge technology.

"Companies like Diatherix and Serina Therapeutics are paving the way for new innovation and growth at HudsonAlpha," he said. "ADTRAN has more patents than any large Alabama-based company. This great company continues to grow thanks to its investment in research and development."

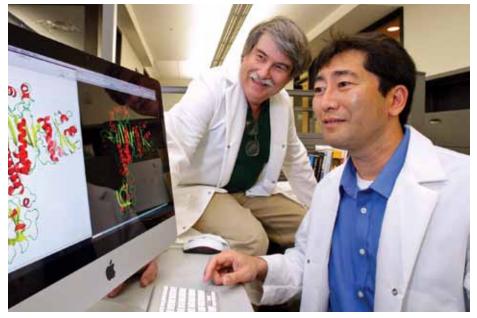
For Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company the proximity to Redstone Arsenal, Marshall Space Flight Center and the University of Alabama in Huntsville were primary considerations when it located in CRP nearly 50 years ago, said Jon Sharpe, the company's weapon systems integration director and Huntsville site director.

Lockheed Martin purchased a large parcel from Annie Bradford in 1962, and the company broke ground for construction of its first building on the Bradford Drive site in May 1963. This made the company the first corporate landowner and CRP's second corporation.

Lockheed has since expanded its Bradford Drive campus to nine buildings, including three primary engineering buildings, five high-bay program facilities and an integrated test facility.

At its 57-acre Huntsville campus, Lockheed employs nearly 800 people. Additionally, the site serves as the primary





Dr. Joseph Ng, right, and his partner Dr. Marc Pusey, left, look at a model of a protein showing its structural elements at the labs of iXpress. *Photo by Glenn Baeske*



The signature double helix walkway at McMillian Park winds its way north of the HudsonAlpha Institute. The walkway, in the shape of a strand of DNA, is the centerpiece of a new research park development north of HudsonAlpha. *Photo by Eric Schultz*

work location for about 300 people employed by subcontractors and teammates.

"With a concentration on aerospace and defense, Cummings Research Park provides a supportive environment for Lockheed Martin to provide the best possible solutions to our customers' toughest challenges," said Sharpe. "The highly collaborative and networked nature of the research park fosters effective relationships with other companies, university talent and our customers. I am not aware of any other research park in the country that exhibits the unique combination of characteristics found here."

Ready access to more than 300 other companies and complementary university research institutions aids Lockheed Martin in providing the suite of tools and talent necessary to construct cost-effective technical solutions for its customers, he said.

"I view the No. 1 benefit as the opportunity for association and collaboration with some of the best and most progressive talent in the country," said Sharpe. "While in many cases we find ourselves in competition with fellow CRP residents, we just as often identify opportunities for collaboration, leveraging the strengths of the region."

Being in the park provides an enabling environment with a combination of resources, which fosters innovation and facilitates development of effective solutions to government customers' needs, he explained.

Asked what CRP uniquely offers that other industrial parks do not, he replied: Location. Location. Location.

"By this, I mean proximity to nationally critical customers, to a host of small, medium and large businesses who are potential teammates and suppliers and to relevant local academic research institutions," he said. "A progressive and innovative regional government and Chamber of Commerce support all of this."

While a great location is important, Sharpe said there is much more to becoming a model CRP corporate citizen than just establishing a facility there.

"For a company to reap the full benefit, it must be willing to fully engage in the broader community and support the perpetuation of the heritage and principles upon which CRP was founded," he said.

Lockheed Martin values its 50-year heritage in CRP and the Huntsville community.

"As a founding corporate resident, we are indebted to the visionary civic, industrial and academic leadership that set the stage for what the CRP has evolved to become," Sharpe said. "We consider it an honor and privilege to count ourselves among the many great corporate colleagues that collectively make CRP a dynamic business environment for innovation. We look forward to our next 50 years."

In 1984, Dynetics moved to CRP, making it the first occupant in CRP West.

"We currently have 60 acres and are looking to expand," said company Vice President David King, "We think we will have a larger space within the next year or two."

"CRP is convenient to restaurants and shopping, with easy access to I-565 and Research Park Boulevard," said King, who counts the close proximity to customers and other businesses as a great advantage. "It is beautiful and welcoming to visitors and a good location for holding conferences.

"The City of Huntsville, Madison County and the state of Alabama are excellent to work with. They are very pro-business and forward-looking. We have had much help and support with roads, electricity and other needs to accommodate our business."

Dynetics expanded in CRP with its 1994 research and development facility. By 2006, the company added its new headquarters building, expanded its R&D facility and opened a 226,000-square-foot solutions complex in 2012.

"We plan to expand more in the future," King said. "As the park grows and diversifies, we plan to grow. Different types of companies such as HudsonAlpha have come in, and even schools. We like to see the diversification. It is good for our community."

The park's considerable size also makes it unique compared to other industrial parks.

"That is a big part of what CRP is – its close proximity to a large, significant federal institution is a real advantage," he said. "The park is large and still has room to grow. The fact that the park was established 50 years ago and still has room to grow is a testament to the vision of the founders. Not being landlocked will obviously help us in the future as we expand."

According to King, CRP has given Huntsville an identity, as well as given the city an R&D arm for the Army and intelligence world.

"We are also located near many of our partners and teammates that we deal with on a day-to-day basis," King said. "The close proximity makes it convenient for our customers to come to us, and we are seeing more of that. UAHuntsville is also close by, and we collaborate with the university on many projects."

CRP is central to Redstone Arsenal, he added, which keeps Dynetics close to many of its customers.

"It makes it easy for a business to come in and set up in an area that is close to customers and partners, and it provides a wonderful environment for people to work," King said. "There is also a unity associated with being a part of the park."



The Icubate machine, developed by Dr. Jian Han, is one of the cutting-edge technologies created at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology. Photo by Eric Schultz



Purchase power

BY DIANA LACHANCE

Whether you're looking for quirky boutiques selling handmade crafts or high-end big box stores with all of your favorite name brands, you can find them within easy driving distance from anywhere in the city.

Perhaps the best place to start is the Bridge Street Town Centre, a planned mixed-use lifestyle center that boasts nearly 70 upscale shops and restaurants.

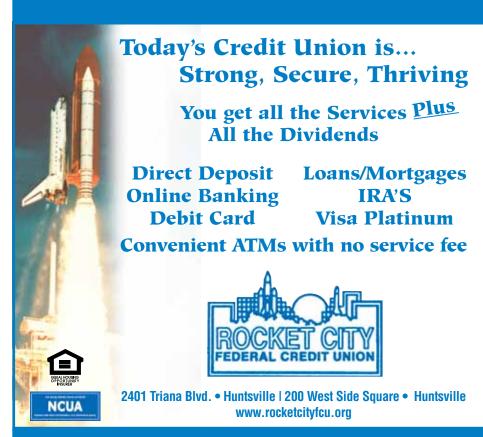
"Bridge Street Town Centre has an unparalleled collection of specialty shops within a 100-mile radius of Huntsville," said Bridge Street marketing director Van C. Geroux. "Its open-air lifestyle environment features unique amenities for the family, including a lake with pedal boat rentals, a majestic carousel, trackless train ride, fountains and a walking trail."

And over the next few months, he said, "a flagship Belk department store will begin construction with a planned opening in the fall of 2014."

For a more traditional approach, Huntsville also has two enclosed malls, Parkway Place Mall and Madison Square Mall.

"We are proud to have had the opportunity to provide the community with not one but









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The Holmes family takes advantage of the sales and excellent weather at Bridge Street Town Centre. *Photo by Dave Dieter*



Local boutiques offer unique gifts and accessories.



The Greene Street Market at Nativity is a popular weekly farmers market in downtown Huntsville

two great shopping centers for many decades now," said Jana Kuner, the group marketing director of CBL & Associates, which owns and manages both malls. "And we are pleased to give shoppers comfort and convenience while they shop, as well as many of their favorite stores."

Thanks to its size, Madison Square Mall has also served as an events venue.

"As a very large shopping center, Madison Square has opportunities that are not available to smaller centers. We pride ourselves on being a good community partner by hosting local community events and fairs, and even working with charitable partners like St. Jude on walks and other fundraising events throughout the year," said Kuner. "We are a great venue for these types of events because the weather is never a factor at an enclosed mall."

There are also many independently owned shops and boutiques that dot the city. Some are collected in Five Points, a historic district northeast of downtown Huntsville. A perfect example is Star Market, a locally owned and operated grocery store that has been a Five Points mainstay since 1944. Known as the "Home of the best meat on earth," Star Market also houses a coffee shop and a pizza place, which serves a local favorite, original Terry's Pizza.

Other shops are located in shopping plazas, like Silhouette Boutique, a locally owned clothing store featuring handpicked items.

"We'll be two years old in April," said owner Sara Alavi. "We carry something for everyone – from little girls and their teenage sisters to their moms and grandmothers."

The boutique has been growing in popularity, and this past year was named the 2012 Small Business Start-Up of the Year by the Women's Business Center of North Alabama.

Still others have carved out their own spaces. That's the case with the Little Green Store on Monte Sano, a locally-owned gift shop that sits within a residential community atop Monte Sano Mountain and sells eco-friendly crafts, foods and clothes. Of course, shopping in Huntsville isn't just limited to clothing and accessories. Start-up and established companies of all types abound and sell products and services ranging from boats and building materials to computer software and kitchen counters.

The city even has its own arts center – Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment, a 100,000-square-foot facility located southwest of Huntsville's downtown. Founded in 2006, Lowe Mill now rents space to more than 100 tenants, including painters, sculptors, and even a glass blower. And like Lowe Mill, both the Museum Store at the Huntsville Museum of Art and the gift shop at the Huntsville Botanical Garden are packed with locally crafted treasures.

In other words, there's no shortage to the amount – or type – of shopping that can be found within the city's limits.

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A PARADISE OF PARKS, SPORTS AND RECREATION

The great outdoors

BY DIANA LACHANCE

Madison County sits at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountain range, nestled snugly in the Tennessee Valley on the Cumberland Plateau. This gives the area a stunning natural beauty and makes it an outdoor lover's paradise.

Much of the county's land is protected by the Huntsville Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as a handful of nonprofit organizations, including the Land Trust of North Alabama, Hays Nature Preserve and the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust. That ensures the area's outdoors will be protected for public enjoyment and use well into the future.

As a result, public parks are a big part of the county's appeal, starting with Big Spring Park, the centerpiece of Huntsville's downtown. Originally built around an underground spring that once served as the city's water source, Big Spring Park has since become a favorite gathering place of residents and visitors alike.

"Big Spring Park is the park that most people know about, and of course we have the lagoon there with all the fish and ducks," said Greg Patterson, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. "The Japanese bridge was donated to the city and it adds a lot of color and a nice look to the park, which is right behind the Huntsville Museum of Art. There are a lot of people there picnicking, walking, playing with kids, throwing a Frisbee."

It's also the site of several events that take place throughout the year.

"We have the Concerts in the Park there, where we have local bands that come out and play. A lot of people bring their dinner with them and eat during the concert. And we've also had Big Spring Jam and Panoply there," said Patterson, naming some of the city's more popular outdoor festivals.

While Big Spring Park might be the most well-known, it's far from the only park that draws thousands of visitors a year. In fact, the Department of Parks and Recreation oversees more than 60 parks covering more than 3,000 acres. This includes the city's off-leash dog park, known as the Dog Spot; the Lydia Gold Skate Park, a 7,500-squarefoot concrete venue for skateboarders and roller bladers; and the JD and Annie S. Hays Nature Preserve and the Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, which together provide more than 900 acres for outdoor fun.

Said Joy McKee, director of Operation Green Team, which falls under the city's Landscape Management Division, "Whether it's hiking, biking or observing wildlife, spending time at either of these is a great way to get a bit of exercise and enjoy the great outdoors."

Moreover, she said, "The playground at the preserve has been certified by the Arbor Foundation as a Nature Explore Classroom, the first to be certified in Alabama."

Greenways are another highlight of the county. There are more than 20 miles of greenway trails that wind their way through Huntsville and Madison, including the Aldridge Creek Greenway, which ends at the Tennessee River; the Flint River Greenway, which runs through Hays Nature Preserve and along the Flint River; and the Atwood Linear Park Greenway, which abuts a residential neighborhood in southeast Huntsville. There are also miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that crisscross Monte Sano Mountain, Green Mountain and Rainbow Mountain. Madison County's nature preserves and wildlife sanctuaries are great places to explore the outdoors and get a bit of exercise.



Claire Munster, swimming for Redstone Arsenal, competes in the Girls 50-yard Butterfly at the Rocket City Swim League City Swim Meet. Photo by Glenn Baeske As a result, many road and trail races held throughout the year make use of these greenways and trails, including the Mountain Mist 50K Trail Run, the McKay Hollow Madness 25K Trail Run, the Alabama A&M 5K Cross Country Race, the Monte Sano 15K & Kids Fun Run, and the Run to the Rescue 5k Trail Run, among others.

But it's not just races that make the county's residents some of the state's most active people. Residents kayak and canoe along the Tennessee and Flint Rivers and drive boats at Ditto Landing. They golf at private or public golf courses, including the 54-hole Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove. They play tennis at the Huntsville Tennis Center or the Huntsville Athletic Club. They take water aerobics class at the Brahan Spring Natatorium or the YMCA. And kids participate in the many sports leagues sponsored by the city.

"We have long-standing youth sports programs, including baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, football and volleyball for kids age 6 and up," said Patterson. "We also help with club soccer and club lacrosse, and even though it's not under our umbrella, we have ice skating and ice hockey."

And just wait until the planned expansion for John Hunt Park is completed. Currently a 378-acre mixed-use property located in the geographical "dead center" of Huntsville, the park was selected by Huntsville Planning Commission for a dramatic



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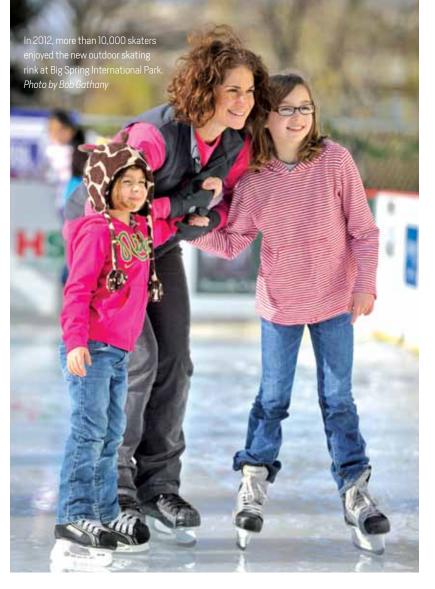
\$100 million overhaul that will include an indoor sports arena, a concert amphitheater and a children's splash fountain, as well as additional soccer fields.

"The John Hunt Park Master Plan will create the recreational centerpiece of our community, with linkages to Brahan Spring Park, Merrimack Park and ultimately downtown," said Marie Bostick, manager of the Planning Administration under the city's Department of Urban Planning.

"Its implementation will provide exciting recreational opportunities for the local community, while also creating venues for state and regional tournaments. The plan features a unique balance of providing basic recreational services and fostering tourism and economic growth."

It also attests to the city's commitment to not only protect and preserve the county's beloved green spaces, but also to make sure their potential is maximized and that every citizen can enjoy their beauty. That's an important point, said Patterson, given how integral parks are to a community.

"I think part of the reason you build parks is to have a community gathering place. And I think the parks help add to the area's small-town feel," he said. "Our parks are spread out fairly well around the city and the greenways add a lot of beauty. Together, they create opportunities to meet family or friends in an environment that's pleasing to the eye."





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IHIU Average Household Income 2012 Cost of Living (Metro Area)

Madison County \$76,967 City of Huntsville \$69,581 \$110,828 City of Madison \$74,407 Huntsville Metro

Source: 2011 American Community Survey

Population

Madison County	343,080
City of Huntsville	182,956
City of Madison	43,685
Huntsville Metro	430,734
Source: 2012 U.S. Census	

2012 Home Sales

Number of Houses Sold	8,980
Average Selling Price	\$163,022
Days on the Market	121
Number of Houses on the Market	7,033
Median Selling Price	\$140,596
Courses Hunterville Anon According	a of Douttons

Source: Huntsville Area Association of Realtors

Composite Index	93.1
Grocery Items	93.8
Housing	78.7
Utilities	103.3
Transportation	96.2
Healthcare	96.5
Misc. Goods & Services	100.1

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research

2012 Employment (Metro Area)

Total Non-Agricultural Employment	205,875	
Manufacturing	21,267	
Non-manufacturing	184,608	
Civilian Labor Force	209,407	
Employment	195,529	
Unemployment	13,795	
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	
Source: Alabama Dept, of Industrial Relations		

Source: Alabama Dept. of Industrial Relations

2012 Airport Traffic

Passengers	1,187,488
Cargo Weight	436,623,054

Source: Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority

Huntsville/Madison County Leading Employers

U.S. Army/Redstone Arsenal*	30,000
Huntsville Hospital System	5,919
NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center*	6,000
Huntsville City Schools	3,079
The Boeing Company	2,600
Madison County Schools	2,389
SAIC	2,229
City of Huntsville	2,206
ADTRAN, Inc.	1,740
UAHuntsville	1,675
CINRAM, Inc.	1,450
Sanmina-SCI Corporation	1,365
Qualitest	1,350
Intergraph Corporation	1,325
Northrop Grumman Corporation	1,238
Verizon Wireless	1,200
Madison County Commission	1,242
Lockheed Martin Corporation	1,150
Toyota Motor Manufacturing	1,150

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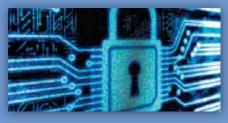
















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