



# JETRO Atlanta

## Newsletter

Issue 1

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Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

September 2019

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW JETRO ATLANTA NEWSLETTER



**Takuya Takahashi**

Chief Executive Director JETRO Atlanta

Hello everyone. My name is Takuya Takahashi, Chief Executive Director of JETRO Atlanta. JETRO has been working in wide-ranging fields to enhance the business relationship between the US and Japan for more than 30 years. We are now focusing on grassroots activities in the Southeast region, including business missions, seminars, and networking.

Today, I am happy to introduce the inaugural issue of our JETRO Atlanta newsletter focusing on our grassroots activities, which I believe will be the key to strengthen bilateral trade and investment

ties. I hope this publication will also serve as a mutual communication tool for our readers and the broader business community. We welcome any comments and feedback from you.

## SOUTHEAST INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT MISSION (GEORGIA/ALABAMA)

From June 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, the JETRO Atlanta office organized the Southeast Investment Environment Mission in Georgia and Alabama. The mission was dispatched in five courses in the United States in conjunction with the "Select USA Investment Summit" hosted by the US Department of Commerce held in Washington, DC. In the Southeast, the Atlanta office organized programs focusing on factory tours of automotive-related companies.

Over the course of the two-day mission, participants were able to visit several factory locations for briefings and to take a closer look at some cutting-edge manufacturing processes. Some of the companies included Decostar Industries, Inc. and Toyo Tire North America Manufacturing, Inc. in Georgia, along with visits to YOROZU Automotive Alabama Inc., LINE-X, LLC and Advanced Aerospace Tooling, Inc. in Alabama.



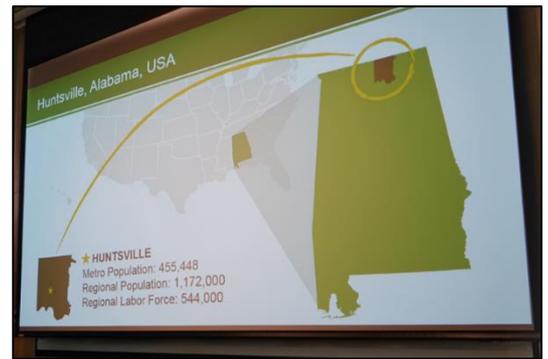
*JETRO delegation at Decostar Industries, Inc. in Carrollton, GA.*

A special treat for the delegation was a visit to site of the new Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, U.S.A., Inc. (MTMUS) plant in Huntsville, Alabama. The Huntsville Department of Economic Development was also on hand to present an overview of current and emerging opportunities in the region.

The tour was attended by 26 delegates from 22 companies and organizations. They mainly represented

Japanese companies from Georgia and other US states, Japan and Mexico. At the briefing sessions on the investment environment in each state, there were explanations about the attractiveness of the respective states as investment destinations, incentives such as tax incentives, and human resource development programs. In addition, factory tours of each company introduced highly automated production lines and unique technologies, as well as explanations of the background and attractiveness of selecting Georgia and Alabama for investment locations.

Participants said, "It was a valuable opportunity to visit the



*In Huntsville, AL.*



*MTMUS, under-construction factory site*

manufacturing sites of US companies while hearing the background of investment from a Japanese company. It was nice to be able to have contact with these organizations. It was also good to connect with state governments and economic development organizations that provide attractive support in each state."

The mission was highly successful, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the participant members, the companies and the government organizations who cooperated in the briefings and factory tours.

## RECENT DIRECT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES OF JAPANESE COMPANIES IN SOUTHEAST

### ◆ A Glass Container Manufacturer to Build First U.S. Plant in South Georgia

Nihon Yamamura Glass Co., Ltd., the leading Japanese glass container manufacturer, announced plans to build [Arglass Yamamura, LLC](#), as a joint venture with Cambium Arglass, LLC, a New York investment firm, in Valdosta, Georgia. Investment plans will encompass the construction of a \$123 million plant that will create more than 150 community jobs to manufacture glass products.

### ◆ Two New Suppliers for Mazda Toyota Plant in Alabama

[TOYOTA BOSHOKU AKI USA, LLC](#) was established as a joint venture between TOYOTA BOSHOKU CORPORATION, Delta Kogyo Co., Ltd., and Toyo Seat CO, Ltd. The production of automotive seats will be delivered to Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, U.S.A., Inc. (MTMUS), now under construction with plans to begin production in 2021. The supplier plans to invest \$60 million, creating approximately 400 jobs.

[VUTEQ CORPORATION](#), a Japan-based global automotive supplier, announced an investment of more than \$60 million to construct a new manufacturing facility. The plant will produce interior and exterior plastic-injected parts and various sub-assemblies for MTMUS in Huntsville and will create at least 200 new jobs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 25- 27: [Japan Booth](#) at Southern Automotive Conference in Nashville, Tennessee

Oct. 20- 23 : 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint Meeting of the Southern U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations in Savannah, Georgia