

m o m e n t u m

metro little rock alliance



A few years ago, eleven Central Arkansas counties decided on a regional economic development approach, branding itself Metro Little Rock. I doubt at the time these business leaders and economic developers realized the positive impact of their decision.

I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of this visionary group known as Metro Little Rock Alliance. As an Alliance, we understand that economic development doesn't happen within county or city boundaries. Just as our economies are linked as a region, Metro Little Rock Alliance unites our marketing and economic development efforts.

As you review our report, which includes a sampling of activity, I think you'll quickly conclude that economic development here is vibrant. While our success is unprecedented, we feel we've only just begun. We call it momentum.

Joey Dean
Metro Little Rock Alliance Executive Director

When companies review sites for location, or are considering expanding, they look closely at the strengths of the region. Regions are vital to successful economic development. A strong, unified region can be the deciding factor for a company when everything else is equal. Metro Little Rock Alliance has experienced success this past year because of its strength as a region. Their marketing, negotiating abilities, and proposals have all had the force of the region. Regions work. The success of MLRA is proof.

Maria Haley
Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Executive Director



METRO LITTLE ROCK ALLIANCE

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momentum starts here

Movement. Energy. Growth. All words that can be used to sum up the Metro Little Rock region. There's a reason for our momentum. Actually, there are several.

The pro-business environment where you'll find a low cost of doing business; a large, educated workforce; central location with easy access to river ports, rail, interstates and airports; and an enviable quality of life with a low cost of living. Here you will find some of the most cooperative economic developers in America.

With nearly half of Arkansas's population residing within the eleven counties of the Metro Little Rock region, we are primed to continue our growth, and to help your business grow as well.

SINCE LATE 2005, THE METRO LITTLE ROCK REGION HAS EXPERIENCED UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH.

6,052
new jobs

\$218,535,544
in new payroll

\$2,658,487,311
in capital investment



LM Glasfiber

Metro Little Rock welcomed LM Glasfiber on July 18, 2007 as our newest advanced manufacturing facility. LM Glasfiber is the world's leading manufacturer of blades for wind turbines and has purchased 135 acres at the Little Rock Port to manufacture its blades measuring in excess of 200 feet in length.

The company also intends to locate its North American headquarters and worldwide training facility "LM Academy" alongside the manufacturing facility. The company will invest \$150 million and will employ 1,100 people within five years. LM Glasfiber is scheduled to begin operations in the first quarter of 2008.

1,100
new jobs

\$150 million
capital investment



Fresenius Medical Care North America

Fresenius Medical Care North America, the world's largest, integrated provider of products and services for individuals with chronic kidney failure, announced on February 13, 2007 that it would be establishing a distribution center in Maumelle, Arkansas. The company will invest \$7.5 million creating 30 new jobs. According to Kevin King, FMC's Senior Director of Distribution Operations, the decision to relocate was driven primarily by location. "The Little Rock area is closer to the geographic center of our customer base in this region and represents the most effective way to insure they are best served."

Maumelle Mayor Mike Watson added, "We are pleased that Fresenius selected Maumelle and Arkansas for its new distribution center. We believe they will be an asset to our community and will fit in well with our existing industries."

30
new jobs

\$7.5 million
capital investment



"We couldn't be happier with the location. Not only is the site ideally located to serve some of the central U.S. demand for wind development, but Arkansas was able to accommodate our aggressive ramp up schedule and we have every confidence they will exceed our stated goals."

— Roland M. Sundén LM Glasfiber CEO



"Locating LM Glasfiber's North American headquarters in Little Rock not only creates another flagship company with top-quality jobs for Arkansans, it also puts us on the global map as part of the effort to expand renewable-energy industries."

— Mike Beebe Arkansas Governor



“We are happy to be here at Little Rock today – which has the advantage of a talented workforce, the right transportation opportunities, and above all, the right geographic location. We look forward to a long and prosperous future as partners in Little Rock.”

– Mr. B.K. Goenka Welspun Vice Chairman & Managing Director

“Since our inception, we have ventured into unexplored territories and have emerged as global leaders. Today, after setting our foot in Arkansas, we hope to continue to prove our engineering excellence and be a comprehensive provider for state-of-the-art pipes and related niche products for the transportation of oil and gas.”

– Mr. Braja Mishra Welspun CEO & Executive Director

Welspun Gujarat Stahl Rohren Ltd.

Welspun Gujarat Stahl Rohren Ltd., an India-based manufacturer of tubular steel pipes for use in the oil and gas industry, announced June 30, 2007 that it will be building a manufacturing facility at the Little Rock Port.

The company purchased a 740-acre site, will invest \$100 million and will hire 300 people. The facility is scheduled to begin production by spring 2008 and once completed, will be capable of producing 300,000 net tons of tubular steel pipes.

W.G.S.R. is part of the \$1 billion Welspun Group, the fastest growing company in India. Welspun has more than 18,000 employees and a presence in over 50 countries.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola emphasized that the project is a culmination of efforts among state, local and private organizations including the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Little Rock Port Authority and the Metro Little Rock Alliance.

300

new jobs

\$100 million

capital investment



Other Major Victories in Advanced Manufacturing

Ring Container Technologies built an 84,000 square-foot plant at the Little Rock Port to manufacture Skippy brand peanut butter jars. The company invested \$15.54 million and hired 35 people. “Having access to an enthusiastic and educated workforce is of critical importance in our site selection process. The work ethic and commitment to quality found in the Little Rock area is a perfect match for our advanced manufacturing processes,” said Ring Container’s President Ben Livingston.

35

new jobs

\$15.5 million

capital investment

Boyd Metals announced plans on April 7, 2006 for a new location in Little Rock. The company distributes a broad range of carbon steel, stainless steel, aluminum, and fiberglass products. The company initially leased a 23,800 square-foot warehouse but has since purchased 10 acres in the Little Rock Port to construct a new warehouse and offices.

66

new jobs

\$6.3 million

capital investment

Cardinal Health, Inc.

Cardinal Health, Inc., the leading provider of products and services supporting the health care industry, announced on October 11, 2005 its plans to establish a customer-care center in Central Arkansas. The company hired 500 people, invested \$12 million and operates out of a 71,000 square-foot facility in Sherwood, Arkansas.

Ranked No. 19 on the Fortune 500 and No. 1 in its sector on Fortune's ranking of Most Admired firms, Cardinal Health is a \$75 billion, global company that has a diverse offering of integrated health-care solutions that help customers reduce their costs, improve efficiency and deliver better care to patients.

500

new jobs

\$12 million

capital investment

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a Fortune 500 company, announced on December 12, 2006 that it will now occupy a 76,000 square-foot structure in downtown Little Rock to serve as one of two primary data centers for the entire four-state Entergy system. The new data center results in 100 new professional jobs with an estimated payroll of \$8 million and a capital investment of \$41 million.

SAIC offers a broad range of expertise in defense transformation efforts, intelligence, homeland security, logistics and product support, health and life sciences and space and earth sciences and global commercial services. It has more than 43,000 employees worldwide.

100

new jobs

\$41 million

capital investment

FTD.COM

FTD.COM has opened an order entry and customer service center in Sherwood, Arkansas creating 250 new jobs and investing \$2.5 million. A team of Arkansas economic developers, led by the Metro Little Rock Alliance, worked with FTD officials to locate the facility.

"We have been impressed with the reception we have received from the metro Little Rock region and Sherwood. They were interested in our business and supported our desire to work together in building a mutually beneficial partnership. They've all been there to help us complete this project efficiently while using every resource possible to make us successful in the Central Arkansas labor market," said Dan Smith, Executive Vice President of FTD.COM.

250

new jobs

\$2.5 million

capital investment

**Stanley, Inc.**

Hot Springs, Arkansas welcomed Stanley, Inc. to the city on October 30, 2006. The company is a leading provider of systems integration and professional services to the U.S. federal government and will be conducting U.S. passport book personalization services for the U.S. Department of State. The company hired 150 full-time and part-time employees and invested \$10.7 million.

150

new jobs

\$10.7 million

capital investment

**ACCENT Marketing Services LLC**

ACCENT Marketing Services LLC announced on June 21, 2006 plans to locate its 12th inbound contact center in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The new center created 450 new jobs with a capital investment of \$2.5 million. The contact center will provide inbound customer service support for a subsidiary of a Fortune 100 telecommunications provider.

ACCENT is an international provider of customer relationship-management solutions that partners with world-class companies to market, sell, service and retain their customers through customer care, loyalty marketing and customer satisfaction programs.

450

new jobs

\$2.5 million

capital investment

AT&T, Inc.

AT&T, Inc. announced plans on September 19, 2007 to establish an Internet subscriber support center in downtown Little Rock. The project will bring 175 new jobs to the region resulting in \$4 million in new payroll by 2009 and \$3 million in capital investment.

"Arkansas has a business climate that invites investment, and the Arkansans whom we employ are a great fit for these jobs because they are customer-friendly and understand technology," said Ed Drilling, President of AT&T Arkansas.

175

new jobs

\$3 million

capital investment

"The Little Rock metropolitan area has been an ideal location to find talented employees to help us serve our customers."

– Vicki Perryman Customer Service, Cardinal Health Senior Vice President

"Our regional economic development efforts, in partnership with the state, Metro Little Rock Alliance and others, were vital in Cardinal Health's decision to locate here."

– Jay Chesshir Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

"From the first day our team visited Arkansas, representatives from the governor's office, the Garland County Economic Development Corporation, the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Little Rock Alliance worked tirelessly to develop a compelling arrangement for both Stanley and the State Department. The opportunity to establish operations in Hot Springs was unmatched."

– Eric Wolking Stanley VP for Federal Agency Program

"We believe the labor force in Hot Springs is a perfect match to support the diverse demographic audience of one of the nation's fastest growing wireless services. We couldn't be more pleased with our decision to join this great community."

– Kevin Foley ACCENT President

"This announcement bucks the outsourcing trend by bringing jobs back to America and Arkansas. I thank AT&T for showing confidence in Arkansas and locating this center in Little Rock."

– Mike Beebe Arkansas Governor



Aviation products have become Arkansas's number one most highly exported item. With several internationally recognized, expanding, aviation manufacturing companies located here, it's easy to see how the region has become a hub for aviation industry suppliers and support industries.

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Dassault Falcon Jet

Dassault Falcon Jet is responsible for selling and supporting Falcon business jets throughout the world. The company is part of Dassault Aviation, a leading aerospace company with a presence in over 70 countries across five continents. Since 1975, Dassault Falcon Jet has had a completion center in Little Rock. The Falcons are flown here "green" from France and are outfitted in Little Rock with full interiors, options and an exterior customized to each customer's needs.

The new 7X has created the need for several expansion announcements at the Little Rock facility. The company presently employees 2,100 and has invested \$47 million in new hangars, paint facilities, warehouse and storage facilities, and an improved service center. The expanded completion center measures 827,000 square feet and the expanded service center will double in size and is expected to be complete near the end of 2008.

Since the rollout of the first Falcon 20 in 1963, over 1,650 Falcon jets have been delivered to more than 65 countries worldwide.

650 new jobs | **\$47 million** capital investment



Hawker Beechcraft

Hawker Beechcraft began an expansion of its aircraft completion facilities in Little Rock on October 3, 2006. The \$16.3 million expansion provides the space needed to finish the paint and interior of the flagship of the Hawker product line, the Hawker 4000 composite fuselage super-midsize business jet, as well as enhances existing operations.

The facilities prior to expansion were working at capacity and needed the additional space to complete and deliver the number of aircraft on order. The expansion adds 112,000 square feet to the existing structure and enables throughput to double by the end of 2008. A new 54,000 square-foot hangar bay provides the necessary space for Hawker 4000 completions. The expansion brings an additional 150 new jobs to the region.

150 new jobs | **\$16.3 million** capital investment

"Hawker Beechcraft's commitment to our Little Rock facility and the great team of talented people we have working here is an investment in the future."
 — Jim Schuster, Hawker Beechcraft Chairman & CEO

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Custom Aircraft Cabinets

Custom Aircraft Cabinets, one of the many support companies to our thriving aviation industry, located in North Little Rock, has recently expanded adding 10 new jobs and investing an additional \$1.1 million in the region.

10 new jobs | **\$1.1 million** capital investment

"With the Falcon 7X now certified for deliveries and with the recent announcement regarding the introduction of the new Falcon 2000LX, Little Rock will be busier than ever completing the best business jets in the sky."

— John Rosanvallon, Dassault Falcon President & CEO

"Metro Little Rock Alliance has organized and marketed itself and is now experiencing the pay off with jobs and capital investment in our region which was the goal of our regional economic development strategic plan."

— Hugh McDonald, Entergy Arkansas President & CEO





Sage V Foods

Sage V Foods announced on September 17, 2007 that it will construct a new 100,000 square-foot rice plant in the industrial park within the Port of Little Rock at an estimated cost of \$20 million. The company is relocating its plant from Texas, and the new plant will more than double the current production capacity and will have ample room for expansion. The plant is expected to grow to 200 employees within two to three years.

Little Rock was selected as the location of the new plant because of the incentives offered by local and state agencies, its proximity to the rice growing area, its logistic location in the center of the country on Interstate 40, rail access in the port and access to waste treatment facilities that can handle cook water. The company feels that in Little Rock it will be able to find skilled employees and that the city will be an attractive location for existing and new management personnel.

200 new jobs | **\$20 million** capital investment

Creative Food Products

Creative Food Products officially opened its snack food processing facility in Bryant, Arkansas on May 22, 2007. The 27,000 square-foot facility, representing a \$2 million investment has initially employed 20 people. At full production, it is anticipated to require 200 employees.

The company's initial product line will be the manufacturing of a new product called "Leanne's Popcorn Chips."

200 new jobs | **\$2 million** capital investment

"We are excited about the unveiling of our new product to the marketplace and our facility location in Bryant, Arkansas. The support from local and state government in addition to the Saline County Economic Development Corporation and Bryant Chamber of Commerce has been overwhelming."

— Robert McNaughton Creative Good Products CEO



THE FAYETTEVILLE SHALE is an unconventional gas reservoir in North Central Arkansas.

The play covers **OVER 5,000 SQUARE MILES** stretching to Crawford County

to the west, past Woodruff County to the east. As the industry has more experience

drilling and completing the Fayetteville Shale, the play is becoming

ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST IMPORTANT FUTURE GAS SUPPLIES.

The economic impact can be astounding.

Schlumberger

Conway, Arkansas welcomed Schlumberger to the city in December 2005. The company is the world's leading oilfield services company supplying technology, project management and information solutions that optimize performance for customers working in the oil and gas industry. The company owns a 20-acre site in the Guy Murphy Industrial Park and its multi-million dollar complex includes a 16,000 square-foot office and shop space and an additional 15,000 square-foot shop and warehouse. The complex also houses a cement bulk plant used for the cementing of oil and gas wells.

The Conway facility, which brought 200 new jobs and \$40 million in capital investment, will be used to service wells drilled by oil and gas operators targeting the development of the Fayetteville shale play in Central Arkansas.

200 new jobs | **\$40 million** capital investment

"Conway was selected as the site for this facility because of its proximity to oil and gas drilling and the critical resources Conway will provide Schlumberger, such as a good potential workforce and the local support structure needed for our business."

— Don Conkle Schlumberger's General Manager for U.S. Land East Operations



England Oilfield Services

England Oilfield Services announced plans to build a new manufacturing facility, creating 175 jobs in England, Arkansas on May 17, 2007. The 33,000 square-foot facility will be located on ten acres in the England Industrial Park. In addition to manufacturing field equipment for the oil and gas industry, England Oil Field Services will offer steel blasting, welding and electrical services to the oil industry.

"England Oilfield Services could have chosen to locate anywhere, but England is home and has a great quality of life," said Roger Bailey, Secretary and Treasurer of the company. "I know the area workforce will be the perfect fit for our growing company."

175 new jobs | **\$10 million** capital investment

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Southwestern Energy Company

Southwestern Energy Company, the major player in the Fayetteville Shale, set up a regional office in Conway, occupying over 40,000 square feet of space, while making plans for a new office facility. With over 550 employees, the company is the largest natural gas employer in the area. The company has invested over \$1.5 billion in the area, with nearly \$1 billion in 2007 alone.

550 new jobs | **\$1.5 billion** capital investment

“Conway is a great community for us to locate our office. In addition to being centrally located, it is a vibrant community that offers a great quality of life for our employees. The community offers three colleges as well as a strong K-12 school district.”
– George Sheffer Southwestern Energy Field Manager

TXD Service, LP and TXD Trucking, LP

TXD Service, LP and TXD Trucking, LP announced they will begin construction of their Arkansas drilling and supply operations at the North Industrial Park in Morrilton, Arkansas. These operations will employ up to 200 people with a projected payroll of \$8 million and will be accompanied by a capital investment in excess of \$83 million.

120 new jobs | **\$83 million** capital investment

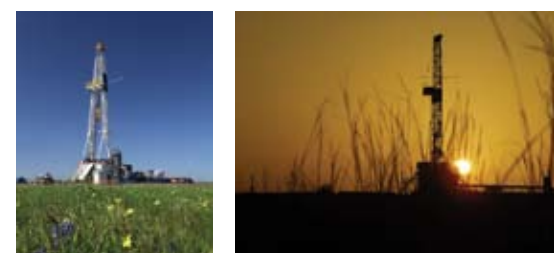
Chesapeake Energy Corporation

Chesapeake Energy Corporation, the third largest independent producer of natural gas in the U.S., announced on September 23, 2006 that it would build a regional headquarters near Searcy, Arkansas. Chesapeake Energy is the most active driller of new wells in the U.S. and one of the leading consolidators of onshore U.S. natural gas assets. The company acquired 23 acres and as of July 24, 2007 has invested \$500 million in Arkansas to lease mineral rights, investigate the subsurface with 3-D seismic and has already drilled nearly 600 wells in the state.

260 new jobs | **\$500 million** capital investment

“The Fayetteville Shale represents tremendous opportunities for Chesapeake, scores of local service and supply companies, mineral owners and all others who will experience an improvement in their long-term quality of life.”
– Tom Price Jr. Chesapeake Senior Vice President

“The spirit of partnership and cooperation among the city, the county, our regional chamber and the state on economic development endeavors continues to prove successful in opening up opportunities for growth and development in White County and Searcy.”
– Belinda LaForce Searcy Mayor



Workforce Education

Education and economic development are eternally linked. In our eleven county region, there are 20 colleges and universities. We know the value of a skilled workforce. It is mandatory for any region to flourish.

- Arkansas Baptist College
- Arkansas State University-Beebe
- Arkansas State University-Searcy
- Central Baptist College
- Harding University
- Hendrix College
- National Park Community College

- Ouachita Technical College
- Philander Smith College
- Pulaski Technical College
- Shorter College
- Southeast Arkansas College
- UA Community College-Morrilton
- UA Medical School

- UALR-Benton
- University of Arkansas-Little Rock
- University of Arkansas-Little Rock Law School
- University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
- University of Central Arkansas
- Webster University

metrolittlerockalliance.com

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