



S I T E S E L E C T I O N N E W S

Oklahoma Draws Foreign Investment as Chinese Auto Manufacturer Revives MG Brand

Senior officials of Nanjing Automobile Corp. announced in July plans to build an MG assembly plant in Oklahoma as part of the revival of the historic MG brand of vehicles.

The proclamation came with the formation of MG Motors North America Inc., or MG Motors. Nanjing Automobile will also locate its European and North American headquarters for sales, marketing, distribution, and research and development in Oklahoma.

Nanjing Automobile recruited a seasoned American auto executive — Duke T. Hale, who has 25 years of executive experience at Volvo, Mazda, Isuzu and Lotus — to be the MG Motors president and chief executive officer.

“A key ingredient in (recruiting experienced auto executives) has been to find the right home to build a completely new model for a global automotive enterprise,” Hale said. “I’m confident that Oklahoma fits that description perfectly.”

Assembly operations of the new TF Coupe will be at the Ardmore Air Park in Ardmore, while research and development will be at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Headquarters operations will be in Oklahoma City.

MG Motors officials said the venture will create about 575 jobs in Oklahoma. The company expects to start construction of the Ardmore facility in early 2007 with production to start by the third quarter of 2008.



I N D U S T R Y H O T S P O T S

● June 2006

- ▶ **Manufacturing** — Dallas Spring Corp. chooses Durant for leaf spring manufacturing plant
- ▶ **Manufacturing** — Central Mortar and Grout LLC breaks ground on \$12 million construction manufacturing plant in Muskogee

● July 2006

- ▶ **Food Processing** — Advance Food Co. in Enid acquires Quik-to-Fix Foods

- ▶ **Business Services / IT** — Onvisource Inc. to expand call center in Enid

● October 2006

- ▶ **Food Processing** — Smithfield Beef Group and ContiGroup Companies to build new beef processing plant creating up to 3,000 new jobs in rural Oklahoma
- ▶ **Business Services / IT** — Capital One opens auto finance customer care center in Tulsa



Career Readiness Program Helps Employers Assess Workers

The retention rate at Solo Cups, a manufacturing and warehousing plant in Ada, increased dramatically in June after it implemented a program based on Career Readiness Certificates.

The Solo Cup plant has discovered a beneficial tool available at no cost to all companies in Oklahoma: Career Readiness Certificates. The certificates are part of a new ACT program.

“Using Career Readiness assessment has allowed us to select the most qualified individuals to join our company,” said Ted Rutherford, information technology and training manager at Solo Cup. “The pre-employment assessments have boosted our efficiency and helped us grow with a better qualified team.”

Career Readiness measures a person’s ability to learn, communicate and solve problems. Certificates help employers know whether applicants possess the skills necessary to begin work and successfully participate in training programs.

During the past year, Oklahoma tested the program and issued more than 2,000 certificates. Companies using the program have seen reduced turnover, as well as improved productivity and training proficiency.

For additional details about Career Readiness, visit OKcommerce.gov/careerready.

New Manager Joins Fast Forward Team

The Fast Forward team was pleased to name Christie Myers as a site location manager in July.



“I am thankful for the opportunity to work with a dynamic team of economic development professionals,” Myers said. “I hope to bring some sales and business expertise and look forward to learning from my new team and partners.”

Myers will be responsible for sales programs to increase new domestic and international investment in Oklahoma, as well as for marketing the state to site location consultants, companies and other decision-makers outside the state.

Contact Christie at 405-815-5241 or christie_myers@OKcommerce.gov.

O K L A H O M A ' S S I T E R E A D Y

The speed in which you can locate, select and break ground on an expansion site is critically important in today’s competitive business world. Enter Oklahoma Site Ready, a certified site program that helps you go from “concept to reality” in a fast, straightforward manner.

Created in partnership with economic development agencies, utility companies, communities and other entities, Oklahoma Site Ready currently offers 18 “shovel-ready” locations across the state. Only three other states offer similar programs.

To earn certification, each location undergoes a rigorous qualification and inspection process. Using nationally established criteria, an independent third party verifies that your selected site is ready for immediate development.

Oklahoma Site Ready cities include: Alva, Ardmore, Bartlesville, Claremore, Duncan, Enid, Eufaula, Fairview, Hobart, Norman, Ponca City, and Wagoner.

Other benefits of Oklahoma Site Ready include:

- Certification to meet pre-established criteria for your specific project type;
- Immediate availability for sale or lease;
- Freedom from “red tape” concerns.



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