

Summer 2015

Jackson County Welcomes



They say good news travels fast, but several Jackson County leaders recently had some great news that they had to make sure didn't travel at all. Excitement was building during the days leading up to the announcement that Google plans to build a \$600-million data center in the Bridgeport/Stevenson area. A few community leaders were under a non-disclosure agreement requiring confidentiality of any aspect of the project, but even they didn't have confirmation of the company's name until days before the press conference on June 24, 2015. The surprise element paid off with a great day of sharing the news with the community.

Jackson County EDA was first contacted by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in August 2014 about a company with preliminary interest in the property near Widows Creek Steam Plant, which was scheduled to be phased out this year in a process that began in 2012. "Selecting the Widows Creek site to build our newest

data center came after an extensive search," said Gary Demasi, Director of Data Center Energy and Location Strategy for Google. "The idea of repurposing a former coal-generating site and powering our new facility with renewable energy, especially reliable, affordable energy that we can count on 24/7 with the existing infrastructure in place, was attractive." The data center will incorporate state-of-the-art energy efficiency technologies and their goal is to be powered by 100% renewable energy.



JCEDA staff at the Google announcement are L to R: Dus Rogers, Marilyn Lott, and Shelia Shepard

Dus Rogers, President & CEO of JCEDA who led the project at the local level said, "I would like to thank the entire team who worked behind the scenes on this project including TVA, Alabama Department of Commerce, the Jackson County Commission, Jackson County EDA/IDB Board, Jackson County Legislative Delegation, the City of Bridgeport, and Bridgeport Utilities. Everyone pitched in and worked to make this happen."

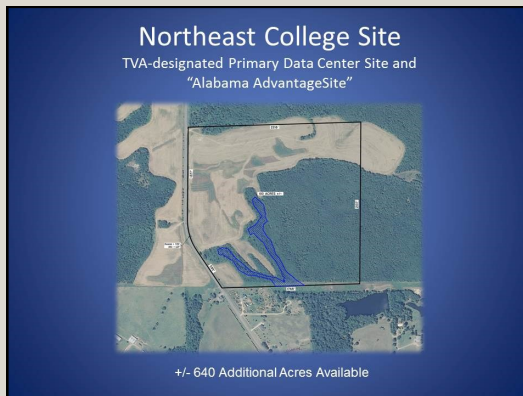
Google anticipates starting construction in 2016. The data center will employ up to 100 people in a variety of full-time and contractor roles, including computer technicians, engineers, various food services, HVAC, maintenance, and security roles. For more information, visit www.google.com/jacksoncounty.



Governor Robert Bentley sports his Google sunglasses following the announcement.

Looking Ahead

Jackson County EDA anticipates receiving additional interest in data center sites. We are prepared with our TVA-designated "Primary Data Center Site" located adjacent to Northeast Alabama Community College. To receive the designation, sites were evaluated for accessibility, telecommunications infrastructure, electric power availability and reliability, and other characteristics that are important to data center location.



Telecommunications services are available with a minimum of 1-Gig internet service at both the Northeast College Site and Jackson County Industrial Park in Hollywood. Both sites also have the "Alabama AdvantageSite" designation, meaning the site has met standards related to ownership, accessibility, infrastructure, planning and zoning, and environmental and geotechnical due diligence.



Spotlight on Allies

Spencer Sessions is the Target Market Specialist for Data Centers/Mission Critical Facilities for TVA. He did an outstanding job while working to recruit Google to Jackson County.

Spencer graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. in International Studies and has an MBA from Union University. He has over 12 years of experience in business/economic development.

Spencer's professionalism and hard work played a vital role in this project, and Jackson County EDA certainly appreciates his tireless effort for this huge win for our community.



Spencer Sessions at the Google announcement in Jackson County on June 24, 2015.

Upcoming Events

- Jackson County HR Professionals 2nd Wed. monthly, 8:00 a.m. at Impact LC
- July 15: Northeast AL Maintenance Managers
- August 12 & 13: AIDT's Leadership Skills I class
- October 1: Industry Appreciation Day
- October 27: CEO Expo (career fair) Sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers needed.
- November 7: BEST Robotics Competition (Kick-off 9/26)

For more information, contact Shelia at 256-574-1331.

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