



Verizon Wireless Post Groundbreaking Ceremony Loud and Clear

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Can you hear me now?” Governor Bob Riley deadpanned to the audience – doing his best impersonation of the well-known Verizon advertising slogan. The timing, and the question, was certainly appropriate considering the governor was leading a post groundbreaking ceremony for Verizon Wireless Thursday in Huntsville where construction has begun on the company’s state headquarters facility. The commitment by Verizon Wireless to invest in the state of Alabama was the answer to the governor’s question – and it was loud and clear.

The 152,000 square foot facility will bring up to 1,300 jobs and an investment of more than \$44 million to the area, according to Verizon Wireless officials, making it the largest job announcement in the state in 2006.

“Verizon Wireless is standing firm on its commitment to build the facility by the end of 2007. The company’s aggressiveness in the marketplace is definitely reflected in its hard work and diligence in building this state headquarters as scheduled,” said Gov. Riley. “Today’s announcement is proof that Verizon Wireless is the right kind of business for Huntsville—dependable, aggressive and growth-oriented.”

Brad Jones, chairman-Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, emceed the event and said the investment by Verizon Wireless would provide great returns to the Huntsville/Madison County community.

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"In 2006, Verizon Wireless provided Alabama's biggest new jobs announcement. Today, we in Huntsville are a step closer to greeting those Verizon Wireless employees and realizing the benefit of the company's ongoing commitment to serving the state," he said. "Likewise, Verizon Wireless is a step closer to fully understanding what we all know—that Huntsville/Madison County is a great place to grow a business. Together, we are a stronger community."

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer said Verizon Wireless is exactly the kind of development the city has envisioned and targeted.

"We appreciate very much the investment that Verizon Wireless is making in our community," said Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer. "Huntsville is recognized as a great place for businesses and the high quality of life here. By bringing 'the network' to our city, Verizon Wireless is strengthening that reputation. We are very honored to be chosen for this Call Center."

Construction has started on Verizon Wireless' high-tech state headquarters facility in Huntsville and is expected to be completed in late 2007. The company plans to continue construction on schedule, with hiring for some key positions to begin in the next few months. Jobs that will be created include customer service and business functions.

Jim McGean, president-South Area, Verizon Wireless, indicated that the partnership developed between the company and the community has set a new standard for how the company hopes to work with other communities.

"This opportunity is central to our commitment to provide the best customer service in the industry," said McGean. "We look forward to strengthening our presence in this community, providing meaningful economic growth to this area," McGean said.

"This new facility will help us continue to grow, evolve and improve the company's responsiveness to our existing base of over 59 million customers, while igniting our business for future growth as we continue to expand our portfolio of products and services," he said.

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In the state of Alabama, Verizon Wireless has invested more than \$150 million over the past two years to expand and enhance its wireless network to stay ahead of the growing demand for its products and services across the state.

A Growing, Thriving Business

Verizon Wireless is a growing, thriving business with five new state of the art customer service centers built within the last two years including new locations in Albuquerque, NM, Hanover, MD, Charleston, SC, Wilmington, NC and Chandler, AZ. Collectively, these centers employ over 6,300 employees. Additionally, customer service center expansions in Columbia, SC, Atlanta, GA, Southfield, MI and Dublin, OH collectively increased the employee base by more than 700 employees.

A Great Place to Work

Verizon Wireless is consistently ranked as one of the best places to work in the country because of its nationally recognized employee-friendly policies. The company was named one of Working Mother magazine's "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" for the fifth consecutive year, has been named by Health magazine as one of 10 U.S. employers to best help women balance their professional and personal responsibilities, and has been named one of the nation's top 100 companies by Training magazine for its continued commitment to employee development in each of the last five years.

Verizon Wireless offers highly competitive compensation with salaries starting at \$26,000 and up based on experience. Benefits include health care coverage that begins on the first day of employment, participation in the company's 401(k) program (dollar-for-dollar company match up to 6 percent of the employee's contribution), profit sharing, tuition reimbursement for continuing education, annual bonuses, and short-term and long-term incentive plans. Employees can also take advantage of numerous opportunities for career advancement. Interested applications will be able to apply on line starting in Mid-March by going to www.verizonwireless.com/careers.