



Verizon Wireless to Establish High-tech Huntsville Facility
Governor announces up to 1,300 jobs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gov. Bob Riley announced today that Verizon Wireless will build a new, high-tech state headquarters facility in Huntsville, bringing up to 1,300 jobs and an investment of over \$44 million to the area.

“This is outstanding news for Huntsville and the state of Alabama,” said Gov. Riley. “Today’s announcement is proof that a strong business climate—good schools, a solid community and a highly-skilled workforce – make a difference to growing businesses like Verizon Wireless looking to expand.”

The company plans to break ground by year’s end, with hiring to begin next summer. “When the company ramps up to 1,300 employees, Verizon Wireless will be one of Huntsville’s top ten private sector employers,” said Evans Quinlivan, vice chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and emcee of the announcement ceremony.

The company’s new, 152,389 square foot state headquarters, to be located in Thornton Research Park, is expected to be completed in late 2007. “This announcement of Verizon Wireless coming to Huntsville is the culmination of

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several months of intensive work. The governor, the city of Huntsville, Madison County, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the University of Alabama in Huntsville Foundation have worked incognito for most of this year to reach this very significant milestone,” said Ray Jones chairman of the board of directors of the UAH Foundation. The UAH Foundation is the nonprofit organization that has administered land sales in Cummings Research Park East and Thornton Research Park for more than 40 years.

“This investment in our city brings more opportunities for good-paying jobs for Huntsville residents and the surrounding areas. It also shows that more and more see what we already know about Huntsville. It is a great place to live and work,” said Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer.

Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie added, “You know great things will happen when a company consistently ranked as one of the best because of its employee-friendly policies, invests in a location consistently ranked among the top places to work and grow a business.”

“Our new state headquarters and customer service center will help us continue to grow and improve the company’s responsiveness to our existing base of close to 55 million customers, while preparing for future growth as we continue to expand our portfolio of products and services,” said Jim McGean, president-Georgia/Alabama Region. “We have the most loyal customers in the wireless industry because of our outstanding network and customer service and we want to keep it that way. Verizon Wireless is growing to stay ahead of the increasing demand for the Verizon Wireless brand and to enhance our company’s reputation for providing the nation’s most reliable network. ”

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“This new facility is an important component of our commitment to provide the best customer service in the industry,” said McGean. “Huntsville and the State of Alabama have succeeded in creating an inviting business climate that persuaded Verizon Wireless to make a substantial commitment and investment here. We look forward to growing our business and succeed along with the people and the state of Alabama.”

The City of Huntsville, Madison County Commission, Huntsville Utilities and Tennessee Valley Authority are providing site and infrastructure support. Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT)-- recently recognized as the best state-sponsored training program in the country-- will be working with Verizon Wireless to support recruitment and training.

“Verizon Wireless fits perfectly with the strategic growth plans charted by chamber leadership,” noted Quinlivan. “A future-focused employer with solid employee packages is cause for celebration. We have enjoyed working with Verizon Wireless and look forward to supporting them in the long term.”

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% 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. More detail about these job opportunities will be provided in the future.