ALL READY FOR ANOTHER WAVE OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT

For more than a half a century, the Southern United States has attracted Japanese automotive and high-tech companies and other businesses. The region is already home to hundreds of Japanese companies, which have created more than 126,000 jobs for the local economy. The region is known for its high-skilled workforce, the presence of several world-class research institutions and national laboratories in the region. In Japan, companies such as Toyota, Honda, and Nissan have an extensive network of suppliers and partners in the United States that help them produce their vehicles. These companies have been working closely with the local communities and educational partners to develop a skilled workforce that meets their needs.

"Opelika presents itself as a very attractive location for Japanese companies because of various competitive advantages," said Huguley. "Our close proximity to a major airport, our cost of living, and our education system are all key factors that make Opelika an ideal location for Japanese companies." The city of Opelika is in the state of Alabama, which is committed to bringing more Japanese businesses to the state. In 2021, the Japanese-owned company in Opelika’s community and leadership support in the Southern United States is gearing up for the entry of aerospace, automotive, and other companies who are looking to get into the green revolution.

"We have invested in six available buildings with 50,000 to 100,000 square feet of space," said Huguley. "We are also working on projects related to laser technology, particularly laser welding technology used for the manufacturing of electric vehicles. Once we have completed these projects, we will be ready to welcome new companies to the area and encourage collaboration with the local community."

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"The city of Opelika is committed to continuing our efforts to make Opelika a more attractive location for Japanese businesses," said Huguley. "We are working closely with the local community and educational partners to develop a skilled workforce that meets the needs of Japanese companies. We have very high-qualified logistics professionals that are ready to provide whatever for whom is needed.

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