

WHEELS in MOTION

Toyo Tire North America Speeds To Success In Bartow

Although not a new announcement, 2006 marked the first full year of production for Toyo Tire North America, one of Bartow County's largest economic development projects. With the construction completed, full production underway and over 350 skilled workers employed, the company has established a reputation for high quality U.S. products from this, its first U.S. manufacturing plant, which is beginning to realize profitability. A continued partnership of growth and economic stability is eagerly anticipated.

Toyo has demonstrated that it is the quality manufacturing company the community anticipated, and is also a good corporate citizen environmentally, financially and through employee volunteerism.

A note from the company...

When Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. was looking for a location for its new North American state-of-the-art facility, Georgia was at the top of the list. In 2004, the company chose Bartow County and formed Toyo Tire North America in a strategic move to optimize its sales and global operations, reduce costs and meet the growing demand for its award-winning passenger vehicle and light truck tires.

Headquartered in White, Georgia, TNA is responsible for Toyo's first wholly-owned North American tire manufacturing and warehouse facility. Construction of this facility began in October 2004. Little more than a year later, in December 2005, TNA celebrated the Grand Opening of its new facility. The facility is now operating at full capacity for the first phase of the project, with more than 350 employees and goals of producing more than two million tires annually.

"Toyo has built the most technologically advanced manufacturing facility in its 60-year history in order to provide the highest quality tires for our loyal North American consumers and the best possible service for our valued network of dealers," said Mr. Shozo (Carlos) Kibata, president of Toyo Tire North America. "Settling in Bartow has helped us create this impressive facility and provided a diversified and highly skilled workforce that enables us to manufacture the industry's most innovative and reliable tires yet."

