



## **TI Automotive Breaks Ground for New Plant in Georgia**

*TI Automotive will invest \$30 million to build a new manufacturing facility in Hart County, Ga., to produce automotive fuel-tank systems.*

([PRWEB](#)) July 3, 2004 -- TI Automotive will invest \$30 million to build a new manufacturing facility in Hart County, Ga., to produce automotive fuel-tank systems.

The plant initially will manufacture blow-molded plastic fuel tanks and filler pipes for vehicles built in nearby southern states by BMW and an Asia-based automaker.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the 145,000-square-foot plant in the Gateway High Tech Industrial Park took place July 1. TI Automotive executives joined municipal, county and state officials for the program. The industrial park is located off Interstate 85 at Exit 177 in northeast Georgia.

Site preparation, including grading and installation of water and sewer lines, began last month at the 25-acre plot. Construction is scheduled to begin within the next several weeks. The TI Automotive plant initially will employ 100 people and produce 350,000 automotive fuel-tank systems annually.

Hiring will begin in March 2005 with the beginning of training and prototype assembly. A majority of the new employees will be hired locally. Training for many of the facility's high-tech operators will be provided by the state's Quick Start program through North Georgia Technical College.

Brian Lindsay, TI Automotive managing commercial director for Global Fuel Systems, said the company expects to reach full production of fuel-system components for the two automakers in 2006.

The TI Automotive site in the regional Gateway High Tech Industrial Park was developed through the Joint Development Authority of Hart, Franklin and Stephens counties in part through a State of Georgia Edge Grant of \$650,000 funded through the OneGeorgia agency.

Officials on hand for the groundbreaking ceremonies included Craig Lesser, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development; Mike Beatty, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and Nancy Cobb, executive director of the OneGeorgia Authority. They were joined by Buddy Glazner of Georgia Power and Jack Edmunds, chairman of the Joint Development Authority of Hart, Franklin and Stephens counties.

"We've been most heartened by the warm reception and the strong spirit of cooperation we've had in making our site selection," noted Lindsay. "And we welcome the opportunity to play our part in the growth of Hart, Franklin and Stephens counties."

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue said, "TI Automotive's continued investment in Georgia means more jobs for our citizens and further demonstrates that our state is a great place to do business. I am pleased to see that another one of our existing customers is expanding its business operations in Georgia."

TI Automotive will lease the Gateway Park site from the tri-county Joint Development Authority. Incentives provided through the State of Georgia include state job tax credits totaling \$3,000 per employee per year during



the facility's first five years of operation. TI Automotive can effectively spread out the state income tax credits over a 10-year period.

"This all-new facility will have two blow-molding press lines with an annual capacity to produce one million fuel tanks," said Manouchehr Kambakhsh, TI Automotive vice president of Global Advanced Engineering, who took part in the groundbreaking ceremony. "The plant will use an innovative blow-molded filler-pipe process, a first for a North American automotive supplier."

The Hart County plant will be the first TI Automotive facility to incorporate the assembly of fuel tank components, filler pipes and tanks under one roof.

TI Automotive is the world's leading supplier of fluid storage, transfer and delivery systems including brake, fuel and air conditioning applications. Based in Warren, Michigan, the company employs over 20,000 people at more than 130 facilities in 29 countries on six continents. The company's sales in 2003 totaled nearly \$2.5 billion. Further information about TI Automotive is available on the company's website at [www.tiautomotive.com](http://www.tiautomotive.com).

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