

## ***NEWS from***



Macon Economic Development Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2008**

### **The Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) receives “Deal of the Year Award” by the Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA)**

Macon, GA— The Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) was awarded the first annual Deal of the Year Award by the Georgia Economic Developers Association at their Annual Conference in Savannah, GA on September 23, 2008. This award recognizes projects with a significant impact in jobs and investment in an urban community and one that shows creativity and a unique approach.

Billy Pitts, 2008 Chairman of the MEDC, accepted the award for “the hard work and perseverance of many groups including the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority, the Bibb County Commission, the City of Macon, the Board of Education, Norfolk Southern, the Water Authority, the Middle Georgia RDC, and the State of Georgia.” According to Pitts, “the Kumho Tire project presented a tremendous opportunity for this community but it also presented many challenges--challenges that could only be overcome through the cooperation and teamwork of our federal, state and local partnerships.”

Kumho Tire, a part of Korea’s 7<sup>th</sup> largest conglomerate, Kumho Asiana Group, is building a one million square foot state of the art tire manufacturing facility in the Sofkee Industrial Park in Bibb County. When completed in late 2009, the \$225 million facility will employ 450.

“The complexity of the Kumho Tire project required a high level of cooperation among federal, state and local organizations. The coordination and persistence of the Macon Economic Development Commission and the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority was demonstrated in their application. This persistence and hard work has paid off,” stated Del Boyette, Principal with BoyetteLevy and an award judge.

The Georgia Economic Developers Association also awarded Deal of the Year Awards in the Rural Category and Regional Category.

“The state of Georgia should be proud of all the communities who submitted applications for the Deal of the Year. It clearly says that Georgia is a business friendly state with a great story to tell business prospects. The efforts of the Macon Economic Development Commission and the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority in landing the Kumho Tire project will pay great dividends for Macon and Bibb County, the middle Georgia region and the state,” continued awards judge Betty McIntosh, Director Locations Incentive Group, Cushman Wakefield.

The mission of the Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) is to attract, sustain and grow primary jobs and investment in Macon and Bibb County. The MEDC is a private/public agency funded by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, City of Macon, Bibb County and the Macon Water Authority to develop and implement the Marketing Strategy for economic development

activity in Macon and Bibb County and to act as the single point of contact for economic development activity in Macon and Bibb County.

The Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) is a non-profit association of over 1,000 professionals and volunteers who are involved with the economic development of the cities and counties of Georgia. GEDA was organized to increase the effectiveness of individuals involved in the practice of economic development in Georgia by encouraging cooperation, exchange of information, and upgrading of professional skills. GEDA strives to achieve a closer working relationship among professionals and volunteers engaged in economic development in Georgia.

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Pictured at the awards ceremony are (left to right): Todd Greene, Chip Cherry, Laura Mathis, Don Carter, Kathy Bowden, Tony Rojas, Charlie Bishop, Billy Bitts, and Patrick Topping