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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kumho Tire USA opens Tire Manufacturing Facility in Macon-Bibb County, GA

[Macon, GA, May 2, 2016] – Governor Nathan Deal joined Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert, Korean consul general in Atlanta Kim Seong-jin, Chairman Park Sam-gu of Kumho Asiana Group and CEO Lee Han-Seob of Kumho Tire along with other state and local leaders to celebrate the completion of the first of its kind and Kumho's first and only manufacturing facility in the US. The facility is located in the Sofkee Industrial Park and will employ 450 people.

Started in May 2008, the construction of the Georgia plant was suspended due to the fallout from the global financial crisis before being resumed in 2014 and completed earlier this year, making the plant ready for mass production. Built with a total budget of \$450 million, the plant stands on an area of approximately 125 acres and has a gross floor area of 861,112.8 square feet. It boasts an annual production capacity of four million tires, which Kumho plans to raise incrementally to ten million. The plant will serve as a foundation to enhance Kumho Tire's market share in North America.

The Georgia plant is equipped with a cutting-edge proprietary system dubbed Automated Production Unit (APU) that will help boost product quality and manufacturing efficiency. In addition, a new lot tracking system (LTS) using radio frequency identification (RFID) combined with laser guided vehicles (LGVs), unmanned carriers that move along pre-determined routes, ensures a fully-automated movement of products, which allows for seamless, real-time production control.

In his welcome to Kumho Tire, Governor Deal said, "A lot of us have been waiting for this day for a long time, and we are glad it is finally here," he added, "The fact that Kumho chose Georgia is a testament to the automotive industry in Georgia."

"This is a red-letter day in Macon, Georgia," stated Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert, "We are thrilled and delighted to welcome you here to Macon. I want to congratulate the partnership that has worked diligently over the last eight years to make today a reality."

Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority Chairman, Cliffard Whitby said, "This is a

testament that we have the right ingredients to attract, create and grow a thriving private sector, which meets the needs of our business partners and supports our community.”

Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Chairman, George Greer said, “On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce we welcome Kumho Tire to Macon-Bibb. The culture of Kumho Tire is expressed in their statement that ‘Kumho Tire values the advancement of culture and the arts in society. As a leading global company, we contribute to the betterment of society through art, culture and eco-conscious campaigns.’ Our entire community looks forward to a long, prosperous relationship with such a forward looking company. Welcome Kumho.”

Macon Economic Development Board Chair, Starr Purdue added, “The Macon Economic Development Commission, the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority, Macon Bibb County government and the complete economic development team in Macon-Bibb has supported Kumho Tire since our first meeting in 2006. Kumho Tire experienced challenges but they never lost their goal of establishing a state-of-the-art tire manufacturing facility in Macon-Bibb and Georgia. Today this award winning technology leader has become one of the world’s premier tire manufacturers and we welcome them to Macon-Bibb and the state of Georgia.”

This innovative facility with its fully-automated systems allows for real-time production control of Kumho’s ultra-high performance tires for the automotive market and motor sports. Kumho’s focus on technology and providing excellent customer service has made it a top brand in the world of automotive tires.

The Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) is a public-private partnership funded by the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, Macon-Bibb County and the Macon Water Authority to act as the **single point of contact** for economic development projects. MEDC is responsible for attracting new business and industry to Macon-Bibb County; working to grow existing business and industry and assisting the partners with the development of the Downtown Industrial District. MEDC works in partnership with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority. To learn more visit www.maconworks.com

The Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA) is a public body corporate and politic duly created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1962 and is governed by a six-member board. The MBCIA was created for the public purpose of promoting and expanding, for the public good and welfare, industry and trade within Macon-Bibb County, Georgia and reducing unemployment to the greatest extent possible. The MBCIA has developed and owns land in several industrial parks, and also leases manufacturing, warehousing and office space. To learn more, visit www.mbcia.com.