

PRESS RELEASE

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MillenniumBlok® to locate in Monroeville, Alabama the first of six plants it will build, creating 100 jobs for the region.

Monroeville, Alabama. – Mayor Joseph Oglesby announced the date for the groundbreaking of MillenniumBlok® International, Inc. is April 10, 2017. This the first of six plants the company plans to build in the United States. The Company's investment of nearly \$7 million in its newest manufacturing plant located in Monroeville, Alabama will create 100 jobs in the area with a focus on Veterans. The manufacturing facility will be housed in a 52,000-square foot building located in the Monroeville Industrial Park. This facility will be 90 miles from the Mobile Alabama Port Authority making global shipments convenient and economical. The company manufactures revolutionary composite blocks and other products for the construction industry.

"We are thankful for the assistance of Governor Bentley, Director Jim Byard and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Secretary Greg Canfield and Department of Commerce, Chairman Chris Masingill and Delta Regional Authority, Judge Greg Norris and Monroe County Commission, and Executive Director Whitney Hurt and the Monroeville/Monroe County Economic Development Authority," says Mayor Oglesby, further commenting that, "The City of Monroeville is looking forward to working with MillenniumBlok® as we add needed jobs to our economy. I am confident this is just the beginning of positive things that are going to happen for Monroeville and Monroe County."

Based on the Associated General Contractors of America's fact sheet released on the impact of the construction industry and its impact on Alabama. The construction industry's economic impact on the state is \$8 billion (4.1%) of the state's GDP of \$199 billion. The wages and salaries from the construction industry total \$4 billion in Alabama in 2014. The construction industry continues to grow at a rate not seen since before the economic downturn.

MillenniumBlok® came into being in 1996 out of the desire to recycle polystyrene in the Jacksonville (Duval County) Florida School System. Mr. West, at that time, was partner in a company that set up school systems and college campuses in recycling systems in several States. His firm was offered a grant to develop a way to recycle polystyrene as there was not much (and still isn't) of a market for this type of waste. He found the answer in mixing it with cement and other additives, putting it in molds to form a lightweight, highly insulated building block. Thus the birth of MillenniumBlok®. Rigorous testing, including earthquake testing in China as well as "force resistance" and "personnel protection" testing by the US military at Eglin Airforce Base in Florida shortly followed.

MillenniumBlok® International, Inc. has two unique products each with their own target markets. First, in regards to products for the construction industry, it will produce a unique lightweight insulated block, often referred to as M-Blok, which is composed of a proprietary composite material. The product is tremendously strong with very high insulation values enabling it to be extremely energy efficient and therefore fitting easily into the green technology classification. It is also highly resistant to sound and noise penetration, fire, mold, high winds, and significantly impedes bug, termite, and other such pest infestations. Additionally, installation time is at least 5 times+ faster than conventional cement block, reducing dramatically the installation costs compared to conventional cement block structures. It has

been commonly used in commercial, industrial, and residential construction projects. MillenniumBlok® can be easily and economically shipped because of its lightweight and low density.

Second, MillenniumBlok® also produces Mobile Manufacturing Plants. These Mobile Plants are designed to be packaged, shipped and installed quickly anywhere in the world. They have the capacity to operate in remote areas with little infrastructure, such as Africa, Haiti, and Southeast Asia, as well as in small developments in rural areas domestically. Furthermore, the mobile plant will prove to be invaluable in regions where natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes or tsunamis have occurred and immediate attention is required. It is anticipated that the mobile plant assembly program will add an additional 10 to 15 additional jobs.

David E. West is the President and CEO of MillenniumBlok® International, Inc. He is also the inventor of MillenniumBlok® and its related products as well as its manufacturing processes. He has stated “he believes that the dramatically lower overall cost of construction promoted by MillenniumBlok® will result in substantial increases in both commercial and residential construction, not only providing more housing, but stimulating overall economic growth.”

To encourage the investment and job creation in Monroeville, the Alabama Department of Commerce, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, City of Monroeville, and Monroe County Commission approved the company for incentives and grants totaling \$1.75 million through various investment programs and granting authorities. The performance-based incentive allows a company to keep a portion of its investment over the term of the agreement through tax credits and abatement by meeting job and investment targets.

“The economic impact the MillenniumBlok® Plant will have on Monroe County, as well as Monroeville, is creating an excitement in the community. This is a win/win for both our community and state. We have the opportunity to put our community back to work in jobs locally. I cannot express enough gratitude to all the parties who worked tirelessly to put this project together,” states Monroe County Probate Judge Greg Norris, noting further, “I see a promising future for Monroe County with our continued efforts of working together to grow our county as whole.”

“We will continue to focus on locating jobs in Monroe County. With the team effort between local governments and statewide officials, I am confident the future is bright for our county,” says Whitney Hurt, MMCEDA Executive Director. “We could not have had the success in being the first location for a six-plant facility of MillenniumBlok® without the work our elected officials and members of the community. Economic Development is a team business and without a strong team it is difficult for a community to grow. The Monroeville/Monroe County economic development team is dedicated to seeing this county continues to thrive and grow well into the next millennium.”

“Our efforts in promotion and marketing of Monroeville and Monroe County are beginning to pay off in our growth in new and existing industry. This is a positive day for our county. The strength and confidence in our local economy is continuing to grow with companies like MillenniumBlok® choosing to locate here. The EDA is focused on delivering positive results for both new and existing industry and businesses,” states Mark Burgess, MMCEDA Chairman of the Board.

The company’s decision to locate in Alabama was a team effort from locals and state supporters. Pete Black, Monroeville/Monroe County Economic Development Authority Board Member states, “I am very excited that MillenniumBlok® has made the decision to locate a plant in the Monroeville Industrial Park. It is special to have a company which recycles polystyrene into architectural blocks for residential and commercial construction.”

Mildred Smith, a service-disabled Veteran and owner of MJS Consulting and Strategic Planning, Inc. (known for working with the Regional Veteran Community) was the site consultant who brought MillenniumBlok® to Monroeville. “This company locating to southwest Alabama will be a blessing in helping create new jobs for the region.” Expanding the on the idea of new job growth, she continues, “this plant will offer employment opportunities to many and introduce a product to a region which faces tremendous threats of severe weather annually.”

In connection with the Monroeville MBLOK Manufacturing Plant’s becoming a reality, Mr. West also acknowledges the support of Mildred Smith; Alfreda Nickelson, and K. Morgan Varner, III, a native Alabaman, who are the Chairman and COO, respectively, of MICC and GMDI which head up the MBLOK marketing & business development operations.; Joseph Donofro, with Donofro Architects in Dothan, AL.; Tonja B. Carter, Attorney Partner with Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter, LLC and Pete Black, Business Development Manager whom directed MBLOK to the success of this project.

For More Information on MillenniumBlok® International, Inc. please visit - website (millenniumblok.com) and Facebook ([millenniumblok international](https://www.facebook.com/millenniumblokinternational)).

ⁱ <http://www.alagc.org/news/2016/1/13/agc-releases-2016-construction-outlook-and-impact-on-alabama>