

# E-Center News

Northeast Alabama  
Entrepreneurial System

Summer '07



Changer & Dresser Corp.'s new facility off of Hillyer-Robinson Pkwy in Anniston.

Pictured above is Changer & Dresser Corporation.

## **Another graduate!**

Changer & Dresser Corp. left the Entrepreneurial Center in August to move into their newly constructed facility off of Hillyer-Robinson Parkway in Anniston. They were the first Honda supplier to locate in Calhoun County and began operations at the Entrepreneurial Center in 2001 with two employees and a one-room office. They initially began as a distribution center marketing made-in-Japan products to Honda and other automotive suppliers in the Region. Their operations have expanded to include manufacturing and they now employ several machinists, welders, salesmen, and office staff. "We are excited to have played a part in the Company's early development and wish them much continued success. It has been our pleasure to work with such quality people and a fantastic company," stated Director Don Hopper.

To view the TV24 news story, go to our homepage, [www.neaes.org](http://www.neaes.org) and click on Changer & Dresser Corp graduation video.

## **Space Available-**

With the departure of our graduate companies, we have space available for your new or growing light manufacturing or service companies. Please visit our website at [www.neaes.org](http://www.neaes.org) to view our floor plan or contact us at (256) 831-5215.

## **How common are business incubators?**

One of the most frequent comments we receive after someone tours our facility is "What a neat concept, this really is a great idea! Are there other facilities like this?" The answer is yes. Although a unique idea, an incubator is not uncommon. The state of Alabama has about 15 incubators and nationally there are over 800.

Most incubators (including the Entrepreneurial Center) are members of the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA). The NBIA exists to provide information, research and networking resources to help members develop and manage successful business incubation programs. They also help build public awareness of business incubation as a valuable business development tool.

As an economic development tool, incubators are frequently more effective on a cost-per-job generated basis than are business attraction schemes. For the community, a small business incubator holds promise as a mechanism for promoting job creation and job retention, and increasing tax revenues.

For more information about business incubators, visit the NBIA website at [www.nbia.org](http://www.nbia.org)

## **Mountain Longleaf Business Assistance Network Upcoming events:**

- Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Classic on Noble  
7:30AM  
Food for thought Business Breakfast  
Guest speaker: Jim Comer, Presidential Financial  
\$5 Chamber members  
\$10 non-Chamber members
- Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>  
Anniston City Meeting Center  
10:30AM – 7:00PM  
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce  
Business Expo 2007

**Don't forget to check the Mountain Longleaf Business Assistance Network (MLBAN) website at [www.mountainlongleaf.biz](http://www.mountainlongleaf.biz) for links to our affiliate organizations.**