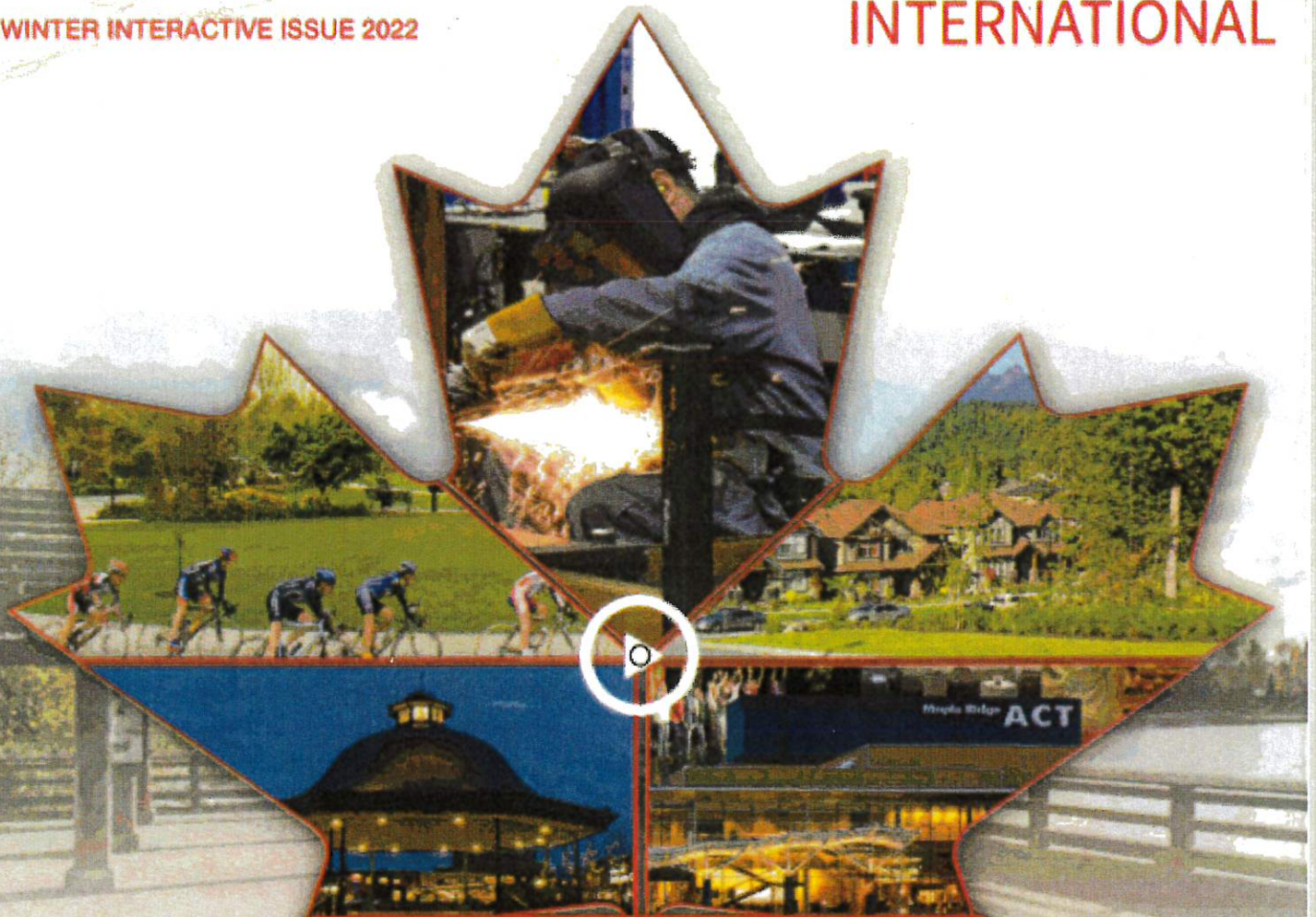


BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SITE SELECTION

FDI ALLIANCE

WINTER INTERACTIVE ISSUE 2022

INTERNATIONAL



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SUCCESS

HUNTINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Success. Today's complex and sometimes even schizophrenic marketplace, can be overwhelming to a company trying to define success and manage their future trajectories for growth. Regardless of whether it's in Huntington, Indiana, USA, or London, England, companies choose to invest where and when they do in order to maximize their chances of being successful. Definitions of success may vary as do the dynamics which either help or hinder. The simple fact is risk management is now a process of finding a "home" for your business – not simply a site.

Readers have found FDI Alliance International to be an excellent resource for relevant information about locations with a commitment to facilitating success. Over the years, FDI Alliance has covered multiple stories from Huntington County which demonstrate a collaborative spirit which makes risk management much easier while quietly producing impressive results.

Companies from Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan have all found

success in Huntington County, Indiana. Firms like Gerdau Steel, Onward Manufacturing, Knorr-Bremse, Golfo di Napoli, Marubeni's Helena Chemical Division, and Teijin Automotive Technologies have already gone through the site selection process and have successfully combined for hundreds of millions of dollars of investments and have touched the lives of thousands in Huntington County.

This rural county in northeast Indiana continues to demonstrate an appreciation for business fundamentals and creativity to support the needs of local industries. "Companies have the same goals as everyone else; to succeed without worrying about government or other corruption compromising profitability. They appreciate locations which collaborate on opportunities to grow and prosper," said Mark Wickersham, executive director of the Huntington County Economic Development Corporation.

Several local projects are underway which demonstrate the vibrancy of this Community of approximately 36,000 people.

The Huntington County Learning Center, a collaboration to meet the vocational training needs of students and employers, has recently doubled in size with a \$4 million investment this year. The public school corporation is investing nearly \$22 million to improve a number of facilities, including a new athletic complex. An \$18 million investment to extend broadband service via fiber optic infrastructure is currently being built and the County has recently been acknowledged by the State of Indiana as an Indiana Broadband Ready Coalition Member.

The local university, Huntington University, is in the midst of nearly \$30 million in facility improvements on campus. The Huntington County Government is creating a very unique center for mental health and community corrections support on a former campus owned by the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana. Additional downtown revitalization projects and airport improvement projects have recently been completed.



The Huntington County Economic Development Corporation, in collaboration with local banking institutions and the City of Huntington, has acquired 172 acres for a new industrial park in Huntington, adjacent to rail and a 4-lane highway to facilitate future industrial growth. "The economic development community has been dreaming about organizing the site, now called the Riverfork West Industrial Park, for over 30 years. It's a very exciting opportunity for us," said Wickersham. "There is also a spec building currently under construction at our Markle Industrial Park at Interstate 69, Exit 286, providing an immediate boost of 200,000 square feet, expandable to 400,000," he added.

Private investments in Huntington County's industrial base have totaled nearly \$500 million in the last few years. Recent projects include a new solar farm investment by Knorr-Bremse Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems intended to provide significant renewable

energy for their primary manufacturing plant in Huntington. Ecolab Corporation has also announced an investment to double their capacity as a global leader in the production of hand sanitizer, particularly important in fighting the global pandemic. Vegan foods leader Kitchen17 of Chicago, has purchased a production facility and restaurant in Huntington and will be opening in 2022.

Huntington County's economic base is quite diverse for a small rural market. Key sectors include, agriculture, automotive, food production, medical devices, healthcare, education, and logistics. "Huntington County is a small market, in great proximity to major markets, and our employers and economic development team have solid accomplishments. We make it our mission to bring collaborative solutions which help mitigate the risk of investing. Our economic development team is quietly and tenaciously producing impressive results," Wickersham concluded.



MARK WICKERSHAM

Executive Director
Huntington County Economic
Development Corporation

8 West Market Street
Huntington, IN 46750

Office: 260-356-5688
Cellular: 260-388-3939

mark@hcued.com

www.hcued.com

