

## Middle Tennessee becoming a green industry hotbed

### Two high-tech manufacturing announcements represent more than \$1 billion in capital investment

As market demand for renewable energy increases, green industries are projected to continue growing. This is good news for Middle Tennessee, which recently welcomed two solar industry leaders to the region.

**Hemlock Semiconductor LLC** announced in December that it will invest approximately \$1.2 billion to build a new polysilicon production facility at the Commerce Park site in Clarksville, Tenn., approximately 45 minutes northwest of Nashville. The facility is expected to employ more than 500 people, and will



Gov. Phil Bredesen; Dow Corning Corporation President & CEO Dr. Stephanie Burns; Hemlock Semiconductor LLC President & CEO Rick Doornbos; and Tennessee Economic & Community Development Commissioner Matt Kisber announced that Hemlock Semiconductor LLC will build a new facility in Clarksville.

employ up to 800 when expanded, making the project the largest announced corporate capital investment in Tennessee history when plans are fully implemented. P2010 staff worked closely with Clarksville officials on the relocation project.

In addition, the **Shoals Technology Group**, the world-wide leader in solar panel components, announced plans in November to purchase a

second 100,000-square-foot production facility in Portland, Tenn., 20 minutes northeast of Nashville, due to increased product demand.

Shoals, which announced its intent to build a \$10.5 million headquarters and manufacturing plant in nearby Gallatin in May 2008, will focus on moving into the Portland manufacturing facility before beginning the design of the corporate office.

“We are proud to add Hemlock and Shoals to the growing list of high-tech manufacturers choosing to locate facilities in Middle Tennessee,” said Janet Miller, chief economic development and marketing officer for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. “High-tech manufacturing is one of the key industries in our regional economy, and we hope to see additional green industry leaders making their mark here.”

## NATIONAL RANKINGS

### Best Metro Area for Business

Nashville ranked eighth in the U.S. as the best metro area for business by *MarketWatch.com*. This ranking was determined by factors such as employment rates and business survival, among other things.

*MarketWatch.com, January 2009*

### Best Southern Cities

Readers of *Southern Living* magazine rated Nashville fifth overall among Southern cities in the magazine’s annual “readers’ choice awards.” More than 47,000 readers of the Birmingham, Ala.-based magazine voted in the poll.

*Southern Living magazine, January 2009*

### Best Places to Retire

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked Nashville fifth on a recent top-10 list of most desirable cities to retire. To determine the ranking, the magazine examined more than 2,000 U.S. cities to find locales that have relatively low taxes but also offer amenities important to retirees, such as a reasonable cost of living and a variety of recreational and cultural offerings.

*U.S. News & World Report, January 2009*

### Best Cities for Young Professionals

For the second year, *Forbes.com* ranked the country’s 40 biggest metros on economic opportunity for up-and-coming young professionals to gauge which cities are attracting the next generation of top business talent. Nashville was ranked 16th due to factors such as a high concentration of corporate headquarters.

*Forbes.com, September 2008*

## Music industry continues to grow in Nashville

With more than 80 record labels, 130 music publishers, 180 recording studios and some 5,000 working union musicians, Nashville is known the world over as Music City. Nashville's diverse music industry, which has an estimated economic impact of \$6.4 billion per year in the Nashville MSA, includes all major genres and is a combination of global corporations, small businesses and independent artists, songwriters and musicians. Recent years have seen additional success for the industry that put Nashville on the map.



### Relocation & Expansion Highlights:

- **Gibson Guitar**, the legendary electric guitar manufacturer headquartered in Nashville, added 200 employees in August due to increased demand for Gibson USA instruments. The Gibson family encompasses 17 brands, including Epiphone, Steinberger, Slingerland and Baldwin.
- **Country Music Television (CMT)** has opened a new operations center near Nashville International Airport. The 20,000-square-foot space will serve as a data-storage facility. In addition, CMT recently expanded into a third floor of its downtown Nashville office building.
- Independent record label management firm **Indie Extreme** has moved its headquarters from Houston to the Brentwood area, just south of Nashville. The company had previously opened a regional office in the Nashville area in the summer of 2007.
- The nonprofit organization that represents more than 10,000 radio stations in music licensing negotiations relocated from New York to Nashville. **The Radio Music License Committee** works with performance rights organizations such as ASCAP, BMI and SESAC, which all have a presence on Music Row in Nashville.
- An Atlanta independent record label has set up shop in Nashville to support up-and-coming artist Rissi Palmer. The **1720 Music label**, which also works with five artists out of Atlanta, is growing its Nashville presence.

### Tax incentive update

Davidson County has recently become eligible for an additional \$2,500 per job created within the Tennessee Jobs Tax Credit Program. For each qualified job created, the creating company now receives \$4,500. For more information, please call the Chamber's economic development department at 615-743-3029.

## Alpha Media Group (back office/shared services, manufacturing, distribution)

Alpha Media Group of New York, the company that produces *Maxim* and *Blender* magazines, has relocated its back-office operations from New York City to Franklin, Tenn. In December 2008, Alpha's finance, manufacturing, distribution, office services and digital technology divisions moved into 25,000 square feet of space, where they employ approximately 40 people.

Williamson County

## Chromalox (manufacturing)

Pittsburgh-based Chromalox, a manufacturer of electric heat and control products, is opening a new facility in La Vergne, Tenn. The new facility will occupy 150,000 square feet and employ approximately 100.

Rutherford County

## CINTAS (manufacturing)

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Cintas designs, manufactures and implements corporate identity uniform programs and provides entrance mats, restroom cleaning and supplies, promotional products, first-aid and safety products, fire protection services and document management services. Their new 58,000-square-foot facility in Mount Juliet, Tenn., is scheduled to open during the first quarter of 2009 and will house approximately 250 employees.

Wilson County

## Standard Candy (manufacturing)

Standard Candy announced in January it would move its Eastman, Ga., manufacturing operations to the company's headquarters in Nashville. The Eastman plant, which makes pecan logs and other candies, employs approximately 250 management and full-time production line workers. The changes are expected to take place by April.

Davidson County

## Superior Inspections (manufacturing support)

Los Angeles-based Superior Inspections announced plans to move its operations to Gallatin, Tenn. The contracted quality control inspection company said it would relocate a handful of its 40 employees, while hiring the bulk of staff from the Gallatin work force. Once fully operational, the facility will employ 40-50 people and occupy 20,000 square feet of space.

Sumner County

### For more information on the Nashville region, contact:

Janet Miller, Chief Economic Development & Marketing Officer  
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce  
211 Commerce Street, Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37201  
jmill@nashvillechamber.com  
Phone (615) 743-3024 • Fax (615) 256-0393  
NashvilleAreaInfo.com