

9/27/11

SHARE

BREAKING

# Major corporation comes to railcar plant

By Bernie Delinski, Staff Writer



Matt McKean/TimesDaily

Navistar has a facility in Huntsville. The corporation will lease the railcar plant in Barton.

Fortune 500 company Navistar International Corp. has agreed to lease the National Alabama railcar plant in western Colbert County for at least 10 years, officials announced this morning.

Navistar officials said they are evaluating options on what products will be produced at the nearly mile-long plant in Barton Riverfront Industrial Park. That decision, as well as how many workers will be needed, will be announced before Navistar takes over operation of the plant on Jan. 1, said Jim Spangler, vice president and chief communications officer for Navistar.

Spangler said the deal will be finalized by the end of the week.

Navistar, which operates an engine plant in Huntsville, is the nation's top producer of school buses and medium-duty trucks and is among the national leaders in the production of 18-wheeler trucks. The company also produces vehicles for the United States military.

National Alabama, through the Retirement Systems of Alabama, now operates the facility and is working to complete at least three contracts.

The plant has about 120 workers now, and Navistar has committed to providing jobs for those workers.

"Many communities go a lifetime and never have the opportunity for such a major industry to come in," Florence Mayor Bobby Irons said.

The company intends to make the 2-million-square-foot plant the cornerstone of its expansion strategy, which they say will increase annual revenue from \$14 billion to \$20 billion.

The Shoals Industrial Development Committee unanimously agreed this morning to transfer its incentives agreement that was committed to National Alabama to Navistar. The action will allow Navistar to qualify for up to \$22 million in incentives if the company meets specified employment thresholds.

Navistar must reach and maintain 900 workers before qualifying for any of the incentive money, which would be \$7.3 million at that level.

The company will have until Dec. 31, 2015, to reach 1,800 workers.

National Railcar, a Canadian company, announced in 2007 plans to operate a railcar plant in Barton that would bring in as many as 1,800 employees. The weak economy and other problems thwarted those plans, causing RSA, which invested more than \$600 million in the project, to take over ownership of the plant nearly three years ago.

## PHOTO GALLERIES

MOST RECENT | MOST VIEWED



Lexington-Hatton



Greased Pig Chase



UNA - Harding

oh baby! photo calendar contest The Women's Pavilion Eliza Coffee Memorial

2011 Shoals Woman Of The Year Read The Magazine Watch Finalist Videos PRESENTED BY HELEN KELLER HOSPITAL Story & Lee

## Events Calendar

Tuesday, Sep 27, 2011 see all events

TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 1	SUN 2	MON 3
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------

### Works by Todd Reed

Kennedy Douglass Center-The Arts  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Photography exhibit by Sarah Cusimano Miles

University of North Alabama Gallery  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

more events...

submit an event

## MOST READ MOST RECENT

UNA student accused of rape 9/12/2011

Some items deadly for pets 9/18/2011

Father, son charged with buying, selling stolen property 9/9/2011

Church disrespectful of fallen soldiers 9/8/2011

Boy, 8, dies in ATV wreck 9/18/2011

Gonzalez in jail again 9/21/2011

Man charged with killing parents 9/10/2011

Law & Order 9/22/2011

Alleged shooter used neighbor's phone to call authorities 9/10/2011

Police: Woman arrested after fight about coffee 9/22/2011

## RECENT TOPICS ON TNVALLEYTALKS.COM



E-mail this Print this