

## Breaking News

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# Three Japanese companies announce Gwinnett locations

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DULUTH — Three Japanese companies announced new locations in Gwinnett, as local and state leaders visited Tokyo to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of Georgia's oldest international economic development office.

HAMACO Industries Corporation, Idaka America Inc. and Okaya (USA) Inc. announced locations in the Gwinnett Place area, joining the more than 500 international businesses with a presence in the county.

"On behalf of Gwinnett County, I am pleased to welcome Okaya, HAMACO and Idaka America to our growing international business community," Commission Chairwoman Charlotte Nash said. "We are committed to increasing Gwinnett's expansion into international markets and promoting the county as a prime destination for companies worldwide. We celebrate the success Japanese companies find in our community and look forward to future growth."

HAMACO Industries Corporation is a subsidiary of Japanese-based Hamada Industry Co., Ltd., which designs and manufactures material handling equipment, such as hydraulic foot-operated lift tables and carts, while Okaya (USA) Inc. is an importer, exporter and processor of iron and steel products. The two opened locations at the Gwinnett Corporate Center on Corporate Drive in Norcross, which is not far from Gwinnett Place Mall.

"We are proud to call Gwinnett County, Ga. the home of our new HAMACO office. We were seeking a location with access to a quality workforce and airport that would enable us to connect more effectively to the Americas, and we found that here," said Masumi Ito, general manager for HAMACO Industries Corporation.

Japanese trading company, Idaka America, Inc. distributes machinery and spare parts to the automobile industry. Its Duluth area location at 3675 Crestwood Parkway, Suite 230, houses a sales office.

"Idaka America, Inc. is very excited to open a new office in the beautiful county of Gwinnett. The people here are friendly and welcoming and we look forward to building many relationships with the folks of Gwinnett County," said Kimiaki Mitsuno, President of Idaka America, Inc.

"These companies are welcome additions to the growing international business community in the Gwinnett Place area," said Joe Allen, executive director of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District. "These announcements confirm that the Gwinnett Place area is poised for significant investment and revitalization. I am confident that HAMACO, Idaka America and Okaya will quickly realize the benefits and advantages of doing business here."

Gov. Nathan Deal said the announcement shows the friendly relationship established with Japan.

"The more investment we see from Japan, the more we can point to the value of having a business-friendly state," Deal said in Tokyo. "Establishing an office in Japan 40 years ago has brought Georgia a very mature corporate presence from that country. We welcome these three companies as they join the ranks of some 350 Japanese companies already here."

Gwinnett is home to more than 70 Japanese companies, which employ nearly 3,000 people total.

"Gwinnett County is considered the epicenter for Asian citizens and companies in the Southeast U.S. and we are excited to be home to a large and growing number of Japanese businesses," said Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Nick Masino. "To support the development of international businesses, Partnership Gwinnett aims to position the county as a hub for global companies and develop opportunities for them to prosper."

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