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Chamber: Nashville's economic pipeline is packed

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The **Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's** Partnership economic development initiative today offered a preview of some of the deals it has in the pipeline.

Without naming names, **Bob Upton**, chairman of the Partnership's business recruitment committee, said the group is working 28 active relocation projects that would bring 8,500 jobs and \$529 million in capital investment to Middle Tennessee and account for 4.8 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

"When you consider that our national economy is still very much in recovery phase, it's really a testament to the strength of the Partnership that we're able to report numbers like these," said Upton, vice president of **T.W. Frierson Contractor Inc.**

On the expansion front, the Partnership is working on 32 active projects representing 3,700 jobs, \$762 million in capital investment and 1.6 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

As with relocations, the expansion projects run the gamut of corporate headquarters, health care, logistics, customer care, data centers and manufacturers. At least eight of the expansions are in manufacturing, said **Beth Chase**, CEO of **C3 Consulting** LLC and chairwoman of the Partnership's existing business committee.

"Note that manufacturing remains a critical part of our region's economy, which is made evident by the number of expansion projects that are in the pipeline for manufacturing," Chase said.

The Partnership is a public-private economic development initiative for recruiting new businesses to Nashville, including relocating firms and local expansions. The initiative originated in 1990 as Partnership 2000. The next iteration, Partnership 2020, is slated to launch in July.

Some economic highlights from the last few months:

Relocations:

- Bridgestone Bandag [relocated its division headquarters to Nashville](#) in November, taking space in Bridgestone's existing airport area facility.
- **Commonwealth Brands Inc.**, fourth-largest tobacco manufacturers, is [relocating its corporate headquarters to Goodlettsville](#) from Kentucky and expects the majority of its 100-person staff to make the move.
- Shareable Ink, a Boston technology startup whose software converts doctors scribbles to digital text, is [relocating its operations to Nashville](#), lured by \$4.5 million in investment that includes TNInvestco dollars.
- IB-Tech's plant [in Maury County will create 385 jobs](#) as it invests \$50 million to manufacture seat adjusters.
- NHK Seating of America is building a new 88,000-square-foot [manufacturing facility in Murfreesboro](#) that is expected to employ more than 225 workers.

Expansions:

- **Asurion**, which insures and repairs cell phones, announced in December [plans to add 500 headquarter and technology jobs in Nashville](#).
- **OHL**, a global logistics company based in Brentwood, is [adding 200 jobs over next two to three years](#) as part of expansion announced in October.
- **MedSolutions**, a Franklin-based radiology benefits management company, is [doubling the size of its Franklin headquarters](#), adding 42,000 square feet.
- **General Mills** announced in September a [\\$100 million expansion of its Murfreesboro plant](#).
- The IRS is building a [new headquarters in Cool Springs](#), creating 700 jobs.
- HealthSpring's \$53 million [expansion in MetroCenter](#) will add 300 jobs in Davidson County.