



LANDRA LARSON/DAILY NEWS

Pictured is Otsuka's North American headquarters at The Lakes at Green Valley industrial park in Griffin.

# Otsuka has North American headquarters in Griffin

The Otsuka Chemical Company's North American headquarters is at 100 The Lakes Parkway at the Lakes at Green Valley industrial park in Griffin. The facility manufactures titanate friction materials for automotive brake pads, an extension of the company's existing chemical production businesses and one that it intends to expand in the United States. In May 2014, Gov. Nathan Deal was the first to announce the headquarters being built in Griffin and the 30-plus jobs it would bring to the town. "I'm thrilled that this state-of-the-art chemical company has chosen Georgia to establish its North American headquarters," said Deal in a release from the Office of the Governor. "We have

a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship with Japan, and our top-ranked business climate will continue to carry global companies such as Otsuka Chemical toward success." The project was first initiated during Deal's mission to Asia in 2013. "As a leading manufacturer of titanate friction material for the automotive industry, we are thrilled to announce the establishment of our new production facility in Georgia," said Hiroyoshi Tosa, chief executive officer of Otsuka

Chemical America Inc. "We want to contribute to the local community while working to meet the needs of our customers across the world through Otsuka Chemical's environmentally friendly product offerings." The Lakes at Green Valley industrial park is considered the first eco-park in Georgia and resulted from a partnership between the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority and Georgia Tech. "Georgia Tech is committed to sustainability and the support of manufacturing in Georgia,"

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said Stephen Fleming, vice president of the Enterprise Innovation Institute at Georgia Tech. "By utilizing our leaders from different areas across campus during the development of The Lakes at Green Valley eco-industrial park, we are helping to create opportunities that support new business growth and the creation of jobs throughout the state." In order to create sustainable site development and building construction on the once privately owned farm, the authority developed the land to be green-friendly from the ground up and created, with the assistance of Georgia Tech, the first green-rating system to ensure that the construction of the Otsuka Chemical American headquarters, and all future companies, will be

environmentally friendly. "Otsuka Chemical could have chosen anywhere in the world to locate its newest business, but it chose Georgia," said Chris Carr, Georgia Department of Economic Development commissioner at the time of the announcement. Founded in 1950, Otsuka Chemical Co. Ltd. is based in Osaka, Japan, with production facilities and offices in nine countries. The company engages in the research, development, manufacture and sale of organic, inorganic, fine and specialty chemicals. Its products include titanate and titanate derivatives, polymerization initiators, resin compounds, resin additive agents, hydrazine derivatives, foaming agents, flame retardants and anti-odor agents for aldehyde.

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