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GLOBAL ATLANTA

Japanese Vinegar Brewery to Launch Factory in ‘Eco’ Industrial Park

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Japanese rice vinegar producer **Marukan** is to set up its second **U.S.** plant in **Georgia**, hiring 15 people becoming the third Japanese company to locate in what’s being positioned as an ecologically industrial park in **Griffin**.

The \$13 million plant will come on line in 2017, producing, packaging and shipping vinegar to customers throughout the Southeast region, supplementing an existing **California** plant.

Students at the **University of Georgia’s Griffin** campus will have a chance to work with the company on developing new products, but its staple recipe isn’t likely to change too much: Based in **Kobe**, the family company has been around since 1649 and has refined its rice vinegar production methods over four centuries.

Japanese firms **Toppan Printing** and **Otsuka Chemical** have already committed to set up factories in The **Lakes at Green Valley**, an industrial park whose “green” design concept was jointly developed by the **Griffin-Spalding County Industrial Development Authority** and **Georgia Institute of Technology**.

Industrial land is only part of the 570-acre park, with 12 industrial sites encompassing a maximum of 2.5 million square feet set aside on 360 acres. Plans also call for a 43-acre hotel and conference center, a 15-acre retail center and 30 acres of dedicated green space anchored by an existing cabin overlooking a lake that will be converted to a nature center.

All buildings within the park will have to get LEED certification in sustainable design, and special water filtration systems will be put in place to minimize sediment loss, according to the [development authority’s website](#).