

QUICKSTART®

Technical College System of Georgia
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Accelerate!

A look back at a decade of Quick Start's auto action

Over the past 10 years, Georgia has been going on a road trip.

The entire Southeast has become the nation's new automotive epicenter, and Georgia has easily kept pace, leading the region in the production of vehicles and component parts.


When Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. broke ground in West Point, Ga. in 2006 for its first-ever North American assembly plant, the region began to transform.

Since then, Kia and its suppliers have created thousands of new

jobs. At the same time, other new, expanding, or transforming companies have continued to play a large role in the supply chain for major auto assembly plants in neighboring states and beyond.

Of course, other auto-related operations haven't been idling. Middle Georgia's Blue Bird is holding firm to its position as a top manufacturer of school buses (*see page 8*), and Kumho Tire opened the largest new manufacturing operation in Macon since 1977

(*see page 3*). And trailer giant Great Dane, one of the great historic, Georgia-grown brands, made a triumphant homecoming when it located a new plant in Statesboro.

Over the past decade, Quick Start has worked with over 60 auto companies. In this issue, we take a look in the rearview mirror to highlight the economic impact this recent boom has had on our state. Be sure to look at our map, which includes a selection of these projects across Georgia (*see page 7*). 



The Other Film Industry

Toppan chooses Georgia for first U.S. plant

TOPPAN

www.GeorgiaQuickStart.org

If you eat potato chips, brush your teeth, shampoo your hair or microwave pre-packaged meals, chances are you've used Toppan USA's signature product — GL FILM — and didn't even know it.

GL FILM is that thin, transparent barrier layer used in the packaging of food, pharmaceutical and industrial products that keeps air and moisture in where

you want it, and keeps it out where you don't. Toppan's proprietary technology is so effective that GL FILM is the industry leader around the world, which is why the Japan-based company recently opened its first-ever U.S. manufacturing facility in Griffin, Ga., to serve its customers in North, Central and South America.

To help the company start up

production in its state-of-the-art clean room facility, Quick Start partnered with Toppan to prepare its workforce of nearly 100 employees with the skills needed to meet the company's standards for quality and effectiveness.

"The strong point of Quick Start is that they combined the whole program, and modified it for our operation and our product," said



Kohei Suenaga, Toppan operating specialist, (pointing) discusses the process of starting a new roll of film with fellow employee Takuya Nagasato.



Above, from left to right: 1: Toppan's slitter machine, which cuts the finished film to the length and width specified by the client; 2-3: Toppan employees working with the film on the slitter; 4: rolls of raw film waiting to begin the coating and vacuum metallization process; 5: exterior of Toppan's new facility in Griffin, Ga.; 6: Kohei Suenaga monitoring conditions on the Coating machine.

Sumito Nishimura, manufacturing manager for Toppan USA, Inc.

In addition to training in technical skills, Quick Start facilitated the cross-cultural training that's required when an international company is encountering an American workforce for the first time, and vice versa. Such training introduces Japanese business philosophies like Kaizen and Lean manufacturing, and teaches American workers about Japan's business and social culture.

"Quick Start is a very powerful tool for attracting a foreign company, a Japanese company," said Hiroshi "Harry" Suzuki, Toppan's chief engineer. "Quick Start helps us educate the people on how to




From left: Hiroshi "Harry" Suzuki, Toppan USA chief engineer; Sumito Nishimura, Toppan manufacturing manager; and Mike Morgan, Toppan human resources/administration manager.

manage the Japanese way."

For Toppan, the benefits of Quick Start's services are as multi-layered as GL FILM itself, giving its employees all of the tools they need to succeed on the Toppan floor.

"It's been very valuable," said Mike Morgan, Toppan's human resources/administration manager. "Between the production process and the cross-cultural training, Quick Start has given our employees a very good foundation for the work they will be doing and the environment in which they will be doing it."

This partnership takes a lot of the stress off of the management and allows them to focus on the countless other tasks associated with starting up a major production facility like this one.

"If we don't have the Quick Start program, we would have to spend more money and more time," added Nishimura. "I would have to do everything myself." 

GL Film is used in packaging and containers of various shapes, including flexible packaging and paper-based liquid containers for solid and liquid contents, such as general food products, toiletries, medical and pharmaceutical goods, and electronic components.

