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Neaton Rome Announces Expansion

Neaton Rome, Inc. has announced plans to expand their operations in Rome and Floyd County. Neaton, who currently employs 160 people, plans to add 20 new full-time jobs and will invest \$6 million to expand their facility and add new equipment. The company currently manufactures steering wheels and other plastic parts for Honda and Nissan vehicles. This new expansion will add airbag production to the facility.

Senior Plant Manager **Tomoyuki Watanabe** informed the Rome-Floyd County Development Authority that Neaton's sales had grown from \$3.6 million in 2001 to over \$70 million in 2005. "We look forward to continued growth in Rome and Floyd County and anticipate that this expansion will prove to be successful for the community and company."

Mayor **Ronnie Wallace** (LR '87) applauded the company's decision to expand their local operation. Said Wallace, "Neaton has been a good corporate citizen since their arrival in 2001 and their tremendous growth shows that their decision to come to Rome and continue to expand has been the right one." **John Mayes** (LR '85), Chairman of the Floyd County Commission, agreed and

commended the local workforce. "The process of manufacturing and properly folding an airbag is a delicate and very important process. Lives depend on the bags working properly. Neaton is obviously confident enough with the local labor force that they can entrust that delicate process to the employees in Floyd County."

Willis Potts, Chairman of the Rome-Floyd County Development Authority, marveled at the growing presence of international manufacturers in Rome and Floyd County and their interaction with other local businesses. "It is truly amazing that there are sixteen international companies here, representing seven countries. What is even more impressive is that they continue to grow and prosper, which is great news for every citizen and business in the county. Small businesses prosper when companies like Neaton choose to conduct business with them."

Special thanks go to **Scott McMurray** and **Gretchen Corbin** (LR '97) with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, U.S. Representative Phil Gingrey, Senator Preston Smith, Representatives Barbara Reese, Barry Loudermilk, Bill Cummings and Paul Smith, the City of Rome and Floyd County. ■

**Membership Drive Co-Chairman
Greg Sumner, Private Security &
Investigations, introduces the
newest members to the
Chamber of Commerce.**

**Read more about the success
of this year's Membership Drive
on Page 4.**

