



Standing, from left, are Mike Patrick, Quick Start training coordinator; John Robinson, United Welding Services (UWS) plant manager; Cade Jones, UWS operation manager; and Jimmy Jiddens, UWS president. Seated, from left, are Dr. Freida Hill, Southwest Georgia Tech president; Richard Fountain, Quick Start project operations manager; and Kenny Jones, UWS owner.

Training in Thomasville

As part of a \$2 million expansion, United Welding Services Inc., a well-known manufacturer of truck accessories, will create 50 new jobs in Thomasville. Quick Start will provide training for the new employees and Southwest Georgia Tech will help UWS with ongoing training. Quick Start's specific training will include instruction in robotics, press brake operations, welding, CNC operations and assembly work.



— MBM Serves Up Jobs in Cordele

After inking a deal with Captain D's Seafood last summer, MBM Corporation hired 80 employees to staff its new facility in Cordele, and Quick Start and South Georgia Technical College provided customized pre- and post-hire training. The company, headquartered in Rocky Mount, N.C., has a nationwide network of distribution centers, three of which are in Georgia — Cordele, Macon and LaGrange.



From left, Sparky Reeves, South Georgia Tech VP of economic development; Jim Piner, MBM Corporation regional HR manager; Marla Lowe, Quick Start executive director of economic development programs; Jan Odum, South Georgia Tech director of economic programs; and Samuel Richardson, MBM regional director of operations.

"It's super to work with the most educated staff in the entire MBM system," said Samuel Richardson, MBM regional director of operations. "Working with Quick Start has been a good experience. They did such a thorough job. Logistically, Cordele is perfect for us. But the big benefit is the community. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful, and working with South Georgia Tech has been awesome."

The company provides food and supplies to national restaurant chains, including Chick-fil-A, Red Lobster and Olive Garden. The addition of Captain D's contract necessitated the Cordele warehouse. Within two months, the facility was renovated, and the staff was hired and trained.

"It was the fastest turnaround on training we can do," said Marla Lowe, Quick Start executive director of economic development programs. "The company's new operation is a valuable addition to this community and Quick Start is here to help get those jobs filled as fast as possible."



American DRILL BUSHING CO.
CBC INDUSTRIES, INC.

Georgia's Can-Do Spirit Attracts Business

American Drill Bushing, maker of hoist rings, tooling components and bushings, is creating approximately 30 jobs at its new operation in Valdosta and has partnered with Quick Start and Valdosta Technical College to train the new employees. The company, which has been in operation since 1942, is relocating from Los Angeles to a 36,000-sq.-ft. facility in Valdosta's Perimeter Industrial Park.

Phil Stranahan, American Drill Bushing vice president and general manager, said he likes the can-do spirit here. "Since the initial contact, everyone with Quick Start, Valdosta Tech and the Valdosta community has been nothing but friendly and helpful. Quick Start has done a great job pulling the training all together. It will serve us well for some time."

The training, which began in the fall, takes place in phases. The company will operate out of both California and Georgia during a transition period, but will be 100 percent Valdosta-based within two years. While some California employees will be relocated, the majority of the employees will be hired here.



American Drill Bushing is moving its operations from Los Angeles to Valdosta. The company is partnering with Quick Start and Valdosta Technical College to train approximately 30 new employees from the Valdosta area. Signing the training agreement are, from left, Richard Fountain, Quick Start project operations manager; Phil Stranahan, American Drill Bushing vice president and general manager; and James Bridges, Valdosta Tech president.