



Positioned to Grow

Toccoa Metal Finishing, recently named the largest metal finishing company in the nation, is expanding operations. Winner of the MAW 2001 Manufacturer of the Year award (small company category), Toccoa Metal Finishing is partnering with Georgia Quick Start and North Georgia Technical College on training for the company's 30 new employees.

"We're committed to giving our people training and getting bigger and better with Quick Start's help," said Dan Weaver, Toccoa Metal Finishing CEO. "Quick Start is helping us to be more competitive not just in the Southeast or in the U.S., but with companies across the globe."

"You may be the biggest company in the country, but to us you're the best company in the world," said Dr. Ruth Nichols, North Georgia Tech president. "Toccoa Metal Finishing epitomizes what a partnership between a business and a technical college can be. We're honored to be working with you."

Toccoa Metal Finishing, which has expanded five times since its founding in 1988, offers functional coatings for such customers as Energizer Inc. and Tyco International Ltd.



From left, Jeff Lynn, Quick Start director of Northern operations; Dan Weaver, Toccoa Metal Finishing CEO; and Dr. Ruth Nichols, North Georgia Tech president.



Expansion in Franklin County

Kautex in Lavonia, a vertically integrated washer system and fuel tank supplier for the automotive industry, is expanding and creating 55 new jobs in the Franklin County area. Quick Start and North Georgia Technical College are partnering to provide training.

"We are committed to growth," Maria Spadaro, Kautex human resources manager, said at the training plan signing. "Key to that growth is training. It's critical for the long-term success of our company, and we couldn't do it without Quick Start and North Georgia Tech."



Standing, from left: Royce Glenn, Quick Start training coordinator; Phil Mellor, Franklin County director of economic development; Lyn Allen, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce executive secretary; David Walters, Kautex manufacturing engineer; Dr. Judy Taylor, North Georgia Tech VP of economic development; and Ralph Hudgens, state senator. Seated, from left: Jeff Lynn, Quick Start director of Northern operations; Maria Spadaro, Kautex human resources manager; and Dr. Ruth Nichols, North Georgia Tech president.

Mining Operation Creates Jobs in Southeast Georgia



Sixty new jobs were added recently at TE Consolidated's mineral sands mine site in Brantley County. Quick Start and Okefenokee Technical College have partnered with the

company to provide pre-employment and job-specific training that includes such core skills as new miner safety, heavy equipment operation and team skills training.

The company is mining titanium minerals and zircon on the 2,500-acre site. The materials are used in a myriad of paper products, plastics and paints for industries including aerospace, the military and healthcare.



From left, Dr. John Pike, Okefenokee Tech president; Ken Boyd, Quick Start director of Eastern region; and Chuck Stilson, TE Consolidated Georgia mine manager, signed an agreement between TE Consolidated, Georgia Quick Start and Okefenokee Tech.



Austrians Tour Quick Start – Austrian executives visited Quick Start as part of an advanced management program through Austria's Limak International Management Academy and Emory's Goizueta Business School. "We want to show them how government and business can cooperate to achieve both sets of goals: company goals of being productive and profitable, and the state goal of having a strong economy," explained Dr. Al Hartgraves, Emory University Goizueta Business School professor of accounting.