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**Nichiha USA, Inc. Announces it Will Construct a
\$78 Million Manufacturing Facility in Macon, GA.**



MACON, GA - Mr. Tetsuro Yoshida, Chairman and CEO of Nichiha Corporation (Japan), joined state and local economic development officials to announce that the company will build a new manufacturing facility in the Airport South Industrial Park in Macon, GA. The \$78 million facility will produce interior and exterior fiber cement panels for the residential, commercial and multi family market in the US.

"The opening of the Macon plant is another key component of our overall strategy to increase the use of fiber Cement Products world wide," stated Mr. Yoshida. "We see the Macon site as the first in a long run of new sites in the United States and abroad."

"We are very pleased that Nichiha has chosen Georgia for its first location in this country," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "The wide range of business resources that our state has to offer and our strategic location in the center of the Southeast, the fastest-growing region of the nation, make Georgia a wonderful launching pad for any company."

"Nichiha USA, Inc. has made a strong statement of support for the pro business attitude of Macon and Bibb County," according to Steve Kruger, Chairman of the Macon Economic Development Commission. "This is another example of how this community can come together to provide the environment necessary to attract good, quality companies such as Nichiha USA, Inc."

Nichiha Corporation has 11 manufacturing plants throughout Japan and two in China. The Macon plant is the first in the U.S. for Nichiha Corporation. Katsunori (Tiger) Takamitsu, President of Nichiha USA, Inc. commented, "The building of the plant falls in line with our corporate strategy to begin domestic production of our products." Nichiha USA, Inc. has been selling fiber cement products in the United States since 1998. "After studying a variety of locations across the U.S.," continued Takamitsu, "we felt that the Macon site best met our logistical and production requirements."

Frank Amerson, Chairman of the Macon Bibb County Industrial Authority praised the efforts of all the agencies involved with this project. "This project required the support of the Bibb County Commission, the county engineering offices, the Tax Assessors, Bibb County Board of Education, GDOT, and others to make it happen," states Amerson. "The Authority is excited to see a new manufacturing plant built in Bibb County."

The plant will occupy 60 acres and will employ 100. Construction began June 2006 with production scheduled to begin late in 2007.

Nichiha USA, Inc. is a U.S. subsidiary corporation of Nichiha Corporation (Japan) who has been manufacturing Fiber Cement Products for more than 30 years in Japan as a technologically advanced worldwide Fiber Cement company. Nichiha USA, Inc. sells patterned Fiber Cement Panels that are used in commercial, residential and multi family properties. The patterns include Brick, Stone, Sandstone and Block. The product carries a 50-year warranty and is installed using a patented clip system. For more information visit www.nichiha.com.

The Macon Economic Development Commission is the public private agency responsible for economic development recruitment in Macon and Bibb County.

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