

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

### **Guntersville and Conners Island ranked in top five for data center locations**

**Guntersville, AL** – Guntersville and Conners Island Business Park continue to receive accolades as an ideal location for a data center. The most recent recognition comes from *Expansion Solutions* magazine, which included the city's economic development program for Conners Island in the Data Center category for its fifth annual "Top Five" Awards of Excellence.

Recently Conners Island was also named a TVA Primary Data Center Location by Deloitte Consulting, one of only 12 initial sites across the seven-state TVA region to meet that program's demanding criteria.

"We are thrilled to receive this national recognition, and it underscores the commitment Guntersville has made to set Conners Island apart in this important growth industry," said Grant DeMuth, economic development director for the City of Guntersville. The city manages the development for the Guntersville Industrial Development Board, which owns the park.

Data centers are specially-designed facilities that house computer systems and components for Internet search engine companies, financial transaction processors, and other high-tech industries. They represent a huge growth area because of the rapid move toward "cloud" computing and off-site data storage.

*Expansion Solutions* is a national publication targeted to site selection consultants. Data Centers is one of seven business categories in the annual ranking, with Guntersville and Conners Island the only Alabama winner among the total list of 35 award recipients.

"We are excited about giving national recognition to these organizations as it further demonstrates their leadership role in business retention, expansion and relocation," said Kimberly Merkel, editor of *Expansion Solutions*. "Not only does it showcase each area for their success in recruiting and retaining businesses, it also is a source of pride for each award winner's city, county, state and economic development department."

The Top Five awards recognize economic development organizations that have shown exceptional progress in the area of development. The locations were chosen because of the support system offered to businesses, as well as recent activity and potential growth that can be created in each area. Strategic locations, pro-business climates, investments made in improving infrastructure and the availability of buildings and sites were among the top deciding factors in choosing these locations.

For more information on Conners Island visit [www.connersisland.com](http://www.connersisland.com), with more details on the Top Five awards available at [www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com](http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com).

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