



BUCKEYE POWER CURRENT

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The Unique Job-Generating Power of R&D

It's no surprise that companies that perform research and development are some of the most highly sought after in the economic development realm, as these companies are most likely to invest in expanded facilities, new equipment and additional staff.

Research for the 2014 Union County, Ohio Economic Development Strategy¹ which was created in collaboration with Ice Miller Whiteboard and OHM, revealed that:

- Every 100 R&D jobs in Union County helped create an additional:
 - +87 jobs in Union County
 - +99 jobs in the Columbus Region
 - +80 jobs in the rest of Ohio
 - +185 jobs in the rest of the USA

In contrast, 100 automotive jobs in Union County create job spinoff of an additional 57 jobs in Union County.

So what does it take to attract R&D investment?

For KTH Parts Industries, a Tier-1 Automotive Supplier for underbody structural parts that provides automotive components to companies worldwide, having local access to the following resources made their central Ohio location for a new \$6.7 million, 30,000-square-foot research facility in Union County a clear winner:

- Top-notch universities and colleges
- Nearby technical resources, leaders and clients
- Exceptional community services



At KTH Parts Industries' Union County, Ohio R&D facility, researchers will investigate composite materials and welding technologies to make lighter auto parts that help improve fuel efficiency.

Central Ohio is home to 138,000 college and graduate students.

There are 63 colleges and universities in the Columbus Region with a total enrollment of more than 138,000 college and graduate students and more than 22,000 annual graduates. Twelve of these universities and colleges are within a 30-minute drive of Union County.

“Having access to top-notch universities like The Ohio State University and other technical leaders to source the research and development engineers KTH Parts will hire for the new facility makes Union County and the Central Ohio region an especially attractive R&D location,” stated Chris Millice, Vice President, KTH Parts Industries.

Access to collaborators, technical leaders and clients

Central Ohio is home to world class research institutions that support product, materials and process research, innovation and commercialization. In Union County, more than 2,800 R&D professionals—over 10% of the workforce—are employed in Research and Development positions.

“Our local companies benefit from collaboration with like-minded firms and research and technology institutions that are attracting the brightest minds from around the world,” according to Eric Phillips, Executive Director of Union County Economic Development Partnership and Columbus2020 Board of Directors.

“With its strong corporate foundation, superior research capabilities and large, educated workforce, the Columbus Region is one of the fastest growing innovation and technology hubs for both established and early-stage technology-based businesses,” continued Phillips.

Exceptional community services and relationships

With more than 1,120 employees at its St. Paris, Ohio manufacturing plant, KTH Parts Industries has already experienced the combination of rural benefits and big-city advantages that make the Central Ohio region stand out.

“Pioneer Electric Cooperative has proudly served KTH Parts Industries’ plant since they began operations in 1985,” stated Ron Salyer, President of Pioneer. “As the KTH plant has grown to more than 910,000 Sq. Ft., Pioneer has proactively managed electric service capacity, reliability and redundancy options to support its expansion.”

The new KTH R&D facility is located in the service territory of Union Rural Electric Cooperative, another of Ohio’s 25 electric cooperatives. Union Rural Electric, the first electric distribution cooperative with a LEED Certified facility, illustrates the commitment to innovation and excellence that is found in the Union County community.

Roger Yoder, President of Union Rural Electric Cooperative noted, “Affordable, available sites served by responsive community officials, economic development partners, and service providers such as Ohio’s Rural Electric Cooperatives and Buckeye Power are a value proposition that’s tough to beat.”

Contact Dennis Mingyar, Buckeye Power Director – Economic Development at (614) 430-7876 or dmingyar@buckeyepower.com to explore electric cooperative-served sites in Ohio’s vibrant R&D sector.

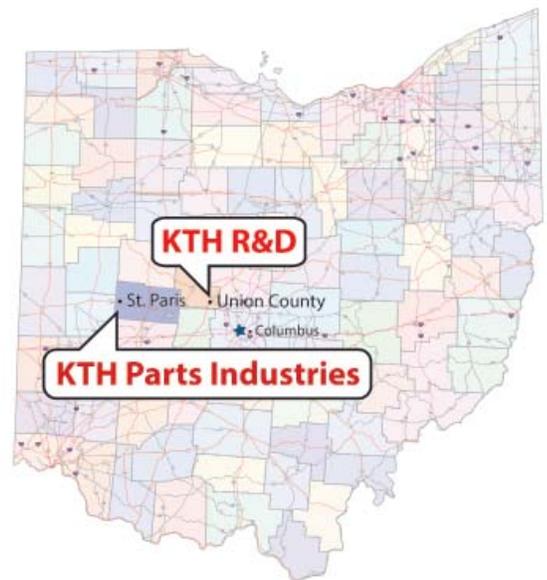
Sources:

1For the full Union County Economic Development Strategy document contact Eric Phillips or visit: <http://www.unioncounty.org/economic-development/eds/>

Columbus Region Research & Innovation Assets

- The Ohio State University
- Battelle
- Transportation Research Center Inc. (TRC)
- Chemical Abstracts Service
- IBM Client Center: Analytics Solutions Lab
- Ohio Supercomputer Center
- SciTech (Science & Technology Campus Corporation)
- Ohio TechAngels
- Ohio Third Frontier
- BioOhio
- EWI
- PolymerOhio
- OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.)
- Rev1 Ventures
- The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s

Source: ColumbusRegion.com



Ohio’s Rural Electric Cooperatives serve both KTH Parts Industries’ St. Paris manufacturing plant and Union County R&D facility.



Union Rural Electric Cooperative serves the region’s rapidly growing R&D, manufacturing, agriculture and corporate services businesses from its LEED Certified facility.

**Buckeye Power and Ohio's Electric
Cooperatives can help with:**

- Comprehensive site and building portfolios
- Preliminary site studies
- Site search tours
- Assistance in identifying financial incentives
- Electric rate analyses
- Community profiles
- State and local government contacts
- Contractor introductions

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