

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Beretta to Build Manufacturing Facility in Gallatin**

\$40+ million investment by 500 year-old firearm giant will add nearly 300 jobs by 2018

**January 29, 2014—GALLATIN, TN:** Beretta will invest more than \$40 million to build a new manufacturing facility in Gallatin, state and local economic development officials announced today. The new operation, expected to be complete by 2018, will net nearly 300 new jobs, most of which will be higher wage skilled, technical and white collar positions. Construction on the 100-acre site in Gallatin's industrial center is expected to begin in May.

Beretta is the oldest family-owned company in the world. Since 1526, the company has been producing firearms for military, competition and sporting use.

Mayor Jo Ann Graves sees the move as a major coup for Gallatin and validation of the city's aggressive strategy to earmark land and infrastructure for an industrial center. "This move is proof that communities must invest in themselves before prospective employers will invest in them," said Mayor Graves.

"We couldn't be more pleased," said James Fenton, Executive Director of Gallatin Economic Development Agency. "This was truly a regional effort, with the state's Commissioner of Economic Development, Nashville Chamber, Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Board, the City of Gallatin and many others working in concert to bring the deal to closure."

Discussions began in April when state economic and community development (ECD) officials learned that the Nashville area was one of several locations being considered by Beretta executives. ECD officials were notified that the Gallatin site was a finalist in November and by early December, negotiations began in earnest. "The city-owned Gallatin Industrial Center definitely had curb appeal," said Fenton, noting that the industrial center's 205 acres of available land and completed infrastructure helped tip the scales in favor of the Gallatin site. A robust skilled labor pool, state workforce training assistance, nearby research and development resources, connections with vendors equipped to build, secure and outfit highly-specialized manufacturing facilities, and attractive incentives also helped sealed the deal.

Earl Fischer, Chairman of the GEDA Board of Directors, praised Fenton and Gallatin city leaders for their role in the project. "Beretta's decision underscores how important it is for a city to invest in land, infrastructure, utilities and amenities," said Fischer. "Mayor Graves, City Council leaders and other officials who supported the development of the city's industrial center deserve recognition for their foresight. And it couldn't have hurt that James Fenton speaks Italian."

The Second Amendment-friendly Southeast's reputation as an attractive expansion and relocation destination for the gun and ammunition industry was also a factor in the company's decision. "Tennessee's track record of supporting Second Amendment rights definitely worked in our favor," said Fischer.

**About ~** The Gallatin Economic Development Agency (GEDA) works to ensure Gallatin's prosperity by serving as its catalyst for economic growth through leadership, aggressive marketing, local, regional and state partnerships, education and professionalism. For more information, visit [www.gallatingetsit.com](http://www.gallatingetsit.com), call GEDA at (615) 451-5940 or email [EDAInfo@gallatin-tn.gov](mailto:EDAInfo@gallatin-tn.gov).

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