



BASF has seen more than \$300M of new investments announced over the past 2 years at our Geismar site. The support that we have received from the State of Louisiana and Ascension Parish has been outstanding.

Specifically, working with LED and AEDC has allowed the Geismar site to successfully compete against other states and countries for these investments. AEDC has been a true partner for our business development in Ascension Parish.

Tom Yura
Senior Vice President & General Manager
BASF Corporation Geismar, La.



The Ascension Economic Development Corporation was instrumental in bringing our Premier Lanes project to fruition. We were pleased to bring our new concept of a family entertainment center to Ascension Parish and could not have done so without the assistance of the AEDC. Many thanks to their whole department for working side-by-side with us to see this project through.

PROJECT: \$5 million and 70 jobs

Wes Lunsford
Project Manager
MALCO

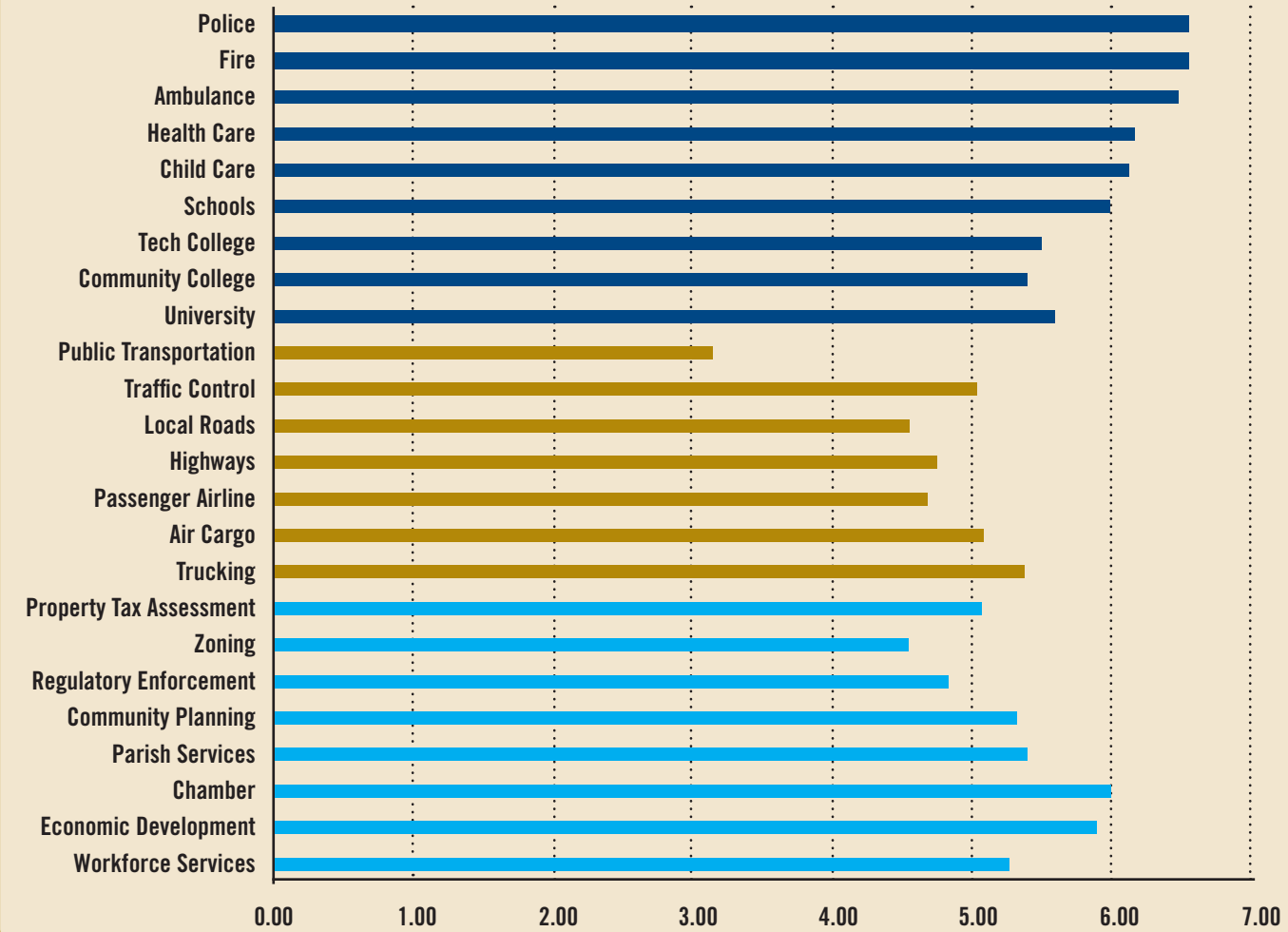


We looked across several states for a suitable location. Through the assistance of AEDC, we identified Geismar as the ideal location for our next methanol production site.

PROJECT: \$550 million and 130 jobs

Gary Rowan
Vice President, Corporate Development
Methanex Corporation

Community Service Quality Ratings*



*Based on surveys conducted during Business Retention & Expansion one-on-one interviews with more than 200 existing employers since 2009.



AEDC Board Members

Chairman,
William "Bill" Dawson
NPC Services

Vice Chairman,
Dwight Poirrier
Attorney At Law

Secretary/Treasurer,
Stevie Graugnard
Realty Executives

Butch Browning
La. State Fire Marshal

Erica Crenshaw
ExecuteNow!

Don Hanna
Latter & Blum

Dolores "Dee" LeJeune
St. Elizabeth Hospital, Retired

AEDC's Funding Partners



Ex-Officio Members

Councilman Randy Clouatre
Ascension Parish Council

Councilman Kent Schexnaydre
Ascension Parish Council

AEDC Staff

Mike Eades, CECD
President/CEO

Lisa Laws
Project Manager

Misty Taillon
Administrative Assistant



CF Industries' Donaldsonville Nitrogen Complex has enjoyed a long presence in Ascension Parish. We appreciate the support of the Ascension Economic Development Corporation and the State of Louisiana as we undertake an expansion at the complex that will provide additional job opportunities within the Parish and an increase in North American produced fertilizers for U.S. farmers.

PROJECT: \$2.1 billion and 93 direct jobs

Lou Frey
Vice President and General Manager,
Donaldsonville Nitrogen Complex, CF Industries



Avalon undertook a yearlong search throughout North America to find a suitable location for its proposed rare earth separation plant. Avalon narrowed its focus to the southern U.S. region due to many attractive operational and economic opportunities not readily available in other regions. However, an important factor in Avalon's decision was the exemplary support shown by AEDC. Mike Eades and his team showed Avalon how a professional ED organization should represent the community it serves. As we advance our exciting Project, we continue to recognize AEDC as a valuable resource to Avalon and to any industry locating and expanding in Ascension Parish, Louisiana.

PROJECT: \$353 million and 175 jobs

David Swisher
Vice President Operations
Avalon Rare Metals Inc.

ASCENSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Experience the Ascension Advantage

3.6 BILLION IN NEW PROJECTS & 655 NEW JOBS

About AEDC

The Ascension Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) was formed for the expressed purposes of diversifying the economy, increasing the tax base and creating quality, permanent jobs by encouraging the expansion of existing enterprises in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, the attraction of new enterprises and to work hand-in-hand with elected and appointed leaders to maintain and improve the business climate in the Parish. AEDC was created by the Ascension Chamber of Commerce, the City of Gonzales and the Parish of Ascension. Incorporated in the State of Louisiana on June 01 2005 under the provisions of Chapter 27, Part I of Title 35 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 as amended and federally chartered under I.R.S. Code 501 (C) (6), AEDC is a private nonprofit corporation pursuant to the Louisiana Nonprofit Corporation Law, Chapter 2 of Title 12 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes as amended. AEDC is governed by a ten (10) member Board of Directors. These ten members serve without compensation and are appointed for three (3) year terms by the following entities: The Ascension Chamber of Commerce: Four Members; the Ascension Parish Council: Two Voting Members & Two Non-Voting Members; the Ascension Parish President: One Voting Member; and, the City of Gonzales Council: One Non-Voting Member.



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Ascension Parish, Louisiana Tops \$3.6 Billion in 2012

New and expanding companies announced over \$3.6 billion in capital investments in Ascension Parish, Louisiana during calendar year 2012. Three (3) attraction and five (5) expansion projects are projected to create 655 direct new jobs and generate an estimated \$31 million in new annual payrolls in the parish.

2012 was a record-breaking year evidenced by a diversification of Ascension's industrial base, sizable investments by existing industries and first-class retail projects. Ascension's attraction projects include Methanex Corporation's relocation of a methanol plant from Chile to Geismar. Avalon Rare Metals selected Geismar as the location of a heavy rare earth separation plant and refinery. This new facility will take rare earth concentrates from deposits located in the Northwest Territories in Canada and process them into high-value end products that are sold on a worldwide market. The infrastructure of the existing chemical industry in Ascension Parish as well as

deepwater, rail and interstate access were critical components that helped secure these investments in Ascension.

CF Industries' announcement of a \$2.1 billion expansion to increase ammonia and urea/UAN production in Donaldsonville was the largest industrial project in the history of Ascension Parish. BASF's announcement of a new formic acid production facility was the third \$100+ million expansion announced for their Geismar facility in the last four years. Emerson Process Management is creating a new regional headquarters in the City of Gonzales.

In addition to successful industrial projects, Malco Theaters, Inc. constructed a \$5 million family entertainment complex that includes the first new bowling center built in Louisiana in 20 years in the City of Gonzales. Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc. is constructing an \$8 million, 50,000-square-foot expansion in Gonzales that will add 6-8 new retail tenants.

ASCENSION PARISH, LOUISIANA 2006-2012

Public Funds Invested in AEDC Through 12-31-2012	\$2,736,700
Announced Capital Investment by New & Expanding Enterprises	\$5,471,700,000
Capital Investment Per Dollar of Public Funding	\$1,999
Jobs Created by New & Expanding Enterprises	2,425
Public Investment in AEDC Per Job Created	\$1,128
Estimated Annual Wages from Jobs Created	\$114,246,600

*Based on the average weekly wage in Ascension Parish in the 1st Quarter of 2012 of \$906 (latest data available) as reported by the Louisiana Workforce Commission for Ascension Parish employees covered under Louisiana's Unemployment Compensation system

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Industrial Zoning Code Revisions

One of AEDC's key strategic initiatives was to undertake a wholesale review of the industrial zoning codes in Ascension Parish and their impact on economic development. Working hand-in-hand with Ascension Parish Planning and Zoning staff, AEDC studied the manufacturing zoning codes in some two dozen other communities along the Gulf Coast. AEDC found that Ascension Parish's current industrial zoning codes were not conducive to the attraction and expansion of diversified manufacturers. Specific issues included:

- There was only one industrial zoning category, which solely addressed the development of "heavy" petrochemical and related industries in the Mississippi River corridor.
- This single industrial code did not adequately provide for or encourage the development of downstream users of the finished products emanating from Ascension's existing manufacturing base.
- The existing code encouraged the consumption of land in the river corridor by enterprises that didn't need to be in heavy industrial zoning because there was not a viable alternative zoning option available.

In 2012, Ascension Parish Planning and Zoning Commissions and ultimately the Ascension Parish Council approved the following revisions to the Development Ordinances on industrial zoning:

- Re-designated the former single Industrial district to Heavy Industrial to accommodate intensive use manufacturing in the river corridor.
- Changed the existing Transition District to Medium Industrial and redefined the allowable uses therein. This action alone opened up an estimated 500 acres of property in the parish to a diversified mix of manufacturing users while ensuring that the heavy process-oriented facilities remained clustered in the river corridor.
- Re-designated the former Business Park category to Light Industrial. In doing so, the Parish added requirements that outside storage be visually screened from view by neighboring properties.

The above changes ensure that Ascension is well positioned to accommodate a diversified set of manufacturing and other industrial activities. At the same time, the Parish has provided for a graduated transition between high impact users such as chemical plants to less intensive uses as development approaches the interface with commercial and residential users.

2012 PROJECT WINS

ATTRACTION PROJECTS

Company	Product/Service	Capital Investment	New Jobs
Avalon Rare Metals	Manufacturing	\$ 353 million	175 jobs
Malco Theatres / Premier Lanes	Entertainment	\$ 5 million	70 jobs
Methanex Corporation	Methanol Mfg.	\$ 550 million	130 jobs

EXPANSION PROJECTS

Company	Product/Service	Capital Investment	New Jobs
Aegis Valves	Manufacturing	\$ 3 million	12 jobs
BASF	Manufacturing	\$ 138 million	20 jobs
CF Industries	Manufacturing	\$ 2.1 billion	93 jobs
Emerson Process Management	Mfg & Distribution	\$ 10 million	90 jobs
St. Elizabeth Hospital	Healthcare	\$ 6.5 million	5 jobs
Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	Retail	\$ 8 million	40 jobs
Westlake Vinyls	Manufacturing	\$ 467 million	60 jobs



2012 Ascension Retention & Expansion Highlights

- 15 Potential expansion projects with 100 new jobs
- 46% of firms experienced sales increases from prior year
- 52% of firms plan to introduce new products/services in the next 1-2 years
- 93% of all firms interviewed would consider Ascension for future expansions

*Based on one-on-one interviews with 62 existing firms in 2012

WORKFORCE QUALITY

