DANA CORP. INVESTS IN TOLEDO

In May 2016, the Dana Corporation, a multinational manufacturer of automobile parts, announced that it would invest $75 million at a facility in Toledo to make axles for the Chrysler Corporation’s new Jeep Wrangler. The choice of location could not have been more symbolic. The new facility, built on land owned by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, would occupy a site that had been used by the Willys-Overland Corporation to assemble the original Jeep used in the Second World War. The factory continued to produce automobiles until it was closed in 2001. With the help of two Clean Ohio grants, the Port remediated the environmental contamination at the site and redeveloped it as the new Overland Industrial Park.

STATE INVESTMENT NEEDED FOR REDEVELOPMENT

After most of the original buildings were removed in 2003, environmental testing revealed that the site was contaminated with industrial chemicals and harmful byproducts. Despite the risks, the Port Authority acquired the 111-acre property during the Chrysler bankruptcy in 2009.

The Port received two Clean Ohio grants in 2011 totaling $4.5 million. A CORF Sustainable Development grant helped to pay for cleanup of the section of the property in a floodplain adjacent to the Ottawa River. This parcel was equipped with

Redevelopment Fast Facts:

- $4.5 million in CORF grants
- $2.8 million JobsReady Sites grant
- $75M investment from Dana Corporation with 300 jobs
- $20M investment from Detroit Manufacturing Systems with 220 jobs
- Over 500 new jobs created

The Clean Ohio Brownfield Program

Between 2002 and 2013, the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) program disbursed $400 million in grants for environmental testing and cleanup of contaminated “brownfields.” Local partners provided matching funds. The program contributed to the redevelopment of more than 7,600 acres of contaminated land around the state, making Ohio a national leader in the reuse of abandoned industrial sites. Local communities were given the flexibility to define the best possible reuse of these sites. Lucas County received 11 Clean Ohio Fund Revitalization grants over the life of the program.

Other redevelopment projects resulted in the Hollywood Casino Toledo and
bioswales and other stormwater controls to minimize the amount of runoff reaching the river. The other CORF grant was used to redevelop the industrial park, along with a $2.8 million Job Ready Sites grant. In most corporate relocation decisions, companies prefer quick access to an existing building. With this in mind, the Port constructed a 100,000 ft\(^2\) industrial spec building at the site. There were very few other new buildings of this size in the Toledo area, which helped the Port to convince Dana to focus on the Overland location.

**A NEW ERA FOR TOLEDO**

Dana Corporation’s investment heralds the beginning of a new era for Toledo, reversing years of job loss. Dana is headquartered in Toledo, but had not owned a manufacturing facility in the city for 30 years. The initial 100,000 ft\(^2\) spec building has been expanded to 300,000 ft\(^2\) and by 2020, Dana anticipates 350 employees at the plant, which will have the capacity to produce one million axles per year and to serve other manufacturers beside Chrysler. The new facility is a welcome addition in a city with a 28 percent poverty rate, and demonstrates that advanced manufacturing can return to an urban area under the right conditions.

Dana’s first priority for site selection was access to skilled labor, which the Toledo area had in abundance. With the main Toledo Area Rapid Transit Authority (TARTA) headquarters directly south of the site and easy access from Interstate-75, the location is fully accessible to area residents.

**DANA’S SUCCESS ATTRACTS MORE BUSINESS**

In August, 2016, another automotive parts supplier, Detroit Manufacturing Systems, announced that it would also lease a 132,000 ft\(^2\) facility at the Overland Industrial Park and has promised to create 220 full time positions and invest $20 million in equipment.

For more information visit: [www.greaterohio.org/brownfields](http://www.greaterohio.org/brownfields)