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## **TEAMWORK DRIVES MORE AUTOMOTIVE JOBS INTO JASPER, AL**

**Yorozu Corporation Set to Invest Over \$100,000,000 and Create 300 Jobs**

Jasper, AL, October 13, 2015— Yorozu Corporation, a global tier one automotive supplier, headquartered in Yokohama, Japan will build a new state of the art metal stamping facility in Jasper. The plant will be located on a 50 acre “Advantage Site” in the Jasper Industrial Park. Yorozu plans to invest over \$100,000,000 to construct and equip the new facility that will employ 300 people. Yorozu Automotive Alabama, Inc. (Y.A.A.) will operate as a subsidiary of Yorozu America Corporation.

Yorozu Corporation was founded in 1948 and has grown to include facilities in Japan, North and South America, China and Southeast Asia. The company currently has over 6,000 employees worldwide.

“Jasper is on the move as a result of determination and teamwork,” stated Jasper Mayor Sonny Posey. “Your city, county, and state leadership have spent hundreds of hours working with the great people of Yorozu, which is resulting in the biggest local jobs announcement in recent memory. It’s because of days like this that I love being your mayor and working to make our community even greater.”

“With the goal of expanding sales and after considerable evaluation of multiple site options, Yorozu Corporation and Yorozu America are excited to announce our plans to establish a manufacturing facility in Jasper, Alabama,” Yorozu America President Jack Phillips said. “This plant will utilize state of the art technology with respect to production automation and logistics automation. It is the aim of the Yorozu group for this plant to be the number one suspension parts production facility in the world.”

“Yorozu is making a significant investment in Jasper and forming a great partnership with the state of Alabama,” Governor Robert Bentley said. “Automotive manufacturing is a significant industry in Alabama, and the 300 new jobs is a welcomed opportunity for citizens of Jasper and Walker County to obtain a good job with Yorozu. The Alabama workforce is strong, and will be a great partner with Yorozu to make it successful. I appreciate the local and state teamwork that went into recruiting Yorozu to Jasper.”

Yorozu will supply multiple automotive assembly plants with suspensions and other components from the new Jasper facility. Construction of the plant will begin by January 2016. Yorozu anticipates completion of the plant in January 2017 with start of production scheduled for July 2017.

The recruitment of “Project Stamp;” as it was called, when it first contacted the Walker County Development Authority, exemplifies Alabama’s “Team” approach to the economic development process. “The teamwork and cooperation between the State, Local Leaders, Boards and Utilities, was critical to the successful recruitment of Yorozu,” said David Knight, Executive Director of the Walker County Development Authority. “Walker County’s close proximity to multiple automotive OEM’s, direct access to Interstate 22 and a high quality labor force provided key advantages during the site selection process.”

“Walker County has always been a shining star, and Yorozu America’s announcement today shows the world is taking notice,” said Senator Greg Reed. “I’m honored to be part of the leadership team in our area and excited to work with Yorozu for many years to come. Most importantly, I’m thankful for the hundreds of new jobs this opportunity brings with it.”

“With the upcoming completion of I-22 into Birmingham, available workforce, and a pad ready site, Yorozu has selected the perfect time to locate in the new Jasper Industrial Park,” said Russ Robertson, Chairman of the Jasper Industrial Development Board. “This decision was the result of a great deal of work on the part of the company, as well as several local and State entities, including the Jasper Industrial Development Board and the Walker County Development Authority and it serves as an example of what can be accomplished when a community is unified in its efforts.”

Toshiyuki Yago, CFO of Yorozu America commented, “Yorozu Corporation employees from Japan, along with Yorozu America and Yorozu Automotive Tennessee employees have had the honor of working closely with Alabama state and local officials in Jasper for many months. Today’s announcement is the result of this work. We look forward to becoming a member of the community and to many years of mutual benefit.”

Billy Luster, Chairman of the Walker County Commission said, “A project like this will be so beneficial to our regional economy. The Walker County Development Authority has worked diligently to prepare our County for development opportunities. This is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when Local Governments and Private Corporations join together to make great things happen.”

“We are proud to be part of the economic development team along with Jasper, Walker County and state of Alabama officials who have been working with Yorozu Automotive,” said Blair King, Alabama Power Economic Development project manager. “With the completion of I-22 just around the corner coupled with a project of this magnitude with Yorozu Automotive in Jasper, the future of this corridor is very exciting.”

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