THREE DECADES.
ONE POWERFUL LEGACY.

30TH ANNIVERSARY



2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT

WEST VIRGINIA
POLYMER ALLIANCE ZONE
ENERGY RICH. INDUSTRY READY.

PAZ 30TH ANNIVERSARY

ENERGY RICH. INDUSTRY READY.

Looking Ahead to the Next Decade



As we begin our third decade, the Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ) continues to be a leader in creating value for the counties within the zone and for the state of West Virginia.

For the fifth time since our inception, we are looking to expand the zone by adding Brooke and Hancock counties. We are also working toward having West Virginia's first certified site-ready location in place before the end of the year.

We have strengthened the PAZ team by bringing Pat Ford and Cam Huffman on board. Together, our team now brings more than 75 years of economic development experience to our mission.

Our marketing outreach has also grown stronger—not only through our own efforts, but through a cash-assistance program designed to offset some of the travel costs for local economic development organizations within PAZ that participate in PAZ-supported trade shows, conferences and missions.

For the second time, we hosted a delegation of Japanese corporate executives and leaders who came at the invitation of Futoshi Sotani, President of Somar. Their visit provided another valuable opportunity to showcase the region and strengthen our international relationships.

And all of that is just part of this year's story.

Our core mission remains the same. As we continue to focus on expanding and strengthening the industrial base of PAZ, we recognize that many of the industries we work with have shared needs and cross over into a variety of fields. We remain committed to growing the polymer industry, while also recognizing that PAZ can play an important role in recruiting other manufacturing industries to the region.

It is amazing what has happened in three decades. I can't wait just to see what we can do in the next year!

Keith Burdette
President and CEO

WEST VIRGINIA POLYMER ALLIANCE ZONE
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2025 Has Been a Banner Year for the Polymer Alliance Zone

2025 has been a banner year for the Polymer Alliance Zone. I thought last year would be tough to beat but we continue to redefine our outreach and expand our efforts. Our influence continues to strengthen as our footprint broadens. We look for ways to create value for our members, our industry, our zone and our state. In doing so we encourage creativity in marketing, property acquisition and management. Most important is the positivity of our message. We focus on telling the world why West Virginia is the right place to invest. We don't overpromise, but we never start a recruitment with no. We look for routes to success. By understanding our assets and the capability of each of our communities we work to tailor our message and our offer to the specific needs of each company we pursue. The competition is always intense. Our competitors are usually bigger and better funded, but we deliver our message with passion and commitment. Our outreach team from the state, PAZ and the local economic development organization is streamlined, coordinated and we speak with one clear voice. We guarantee that our outreach does not end with an announcement but is always focused on the long-term success of each company we recruit, which determines our success as a community and as a state.



After almost 30 years, PAZ as an organization has grown because it offers something to both our partners in economic development and the communities we represent. Because of that I am convinced that the next 30 years will be equally bright.

Josh Cochran
Chairman of the Board of Directors

New Director of External Relations Expands PAZ's Reach & Impact



On the first of March this year, Cam Huffman joined the PAZ team as Director of External Relations. Cam has an extensive background in economic development and government relations and is quickly applying it to the Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ).

Cam has moved to restructure and expand our social media outreach. Working with Stonewall marketing, Cam also more aggressively managed press outreach and on-line blogs for PAZ. He worked with Pat Ford to help expand PAZ's Super Site program and began the process of selecting a company to redesign a new website in 2027. Cam also began taking on more responsibilities of day-to-day property management for PAZ. Currently PAZ owns and manages over 200 acres and is just shy of 1 million square feet of industrial space in Davisville and Huntington.

Cam worked at the Wood County Development Authority from 2004 through 2015, the last five years as President and CEO. He was part of the team that recruited Hino Motors to Wood County and helped with the launch of Wincore. Cam worked with executives of Mountain State Blue Cross and Blue Shield (which is now Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield) to develop plans for the new headquarters on Market Street. His community development work was also extensive, helping to relaunch Parkersburg's Mainstreet Program as Downtown PKB, develop a downtown farmers market, the Taste of Parkersburg event and others.

Cam also was a Special Assistant to Governor Bob Wise during his term. He has represented Fortune 100 companies, and many other for-profit and not-for-profit companies before the West Virginia Legislature and the Executive branch of state government for approximately 20 years.

Pat Ford, PAZ's Vice President said, "Cam's superpower is being able to approach a subject matter and situation with excitement and creativity. Not only does he understand the situation within which he is placed, Cam has an eye for character profiling that leads to his ability to collaborate and build consensus around issues. Cam possesses intrinsic leadership traits. He is a take-charge person who is able to present creative ideas and communicate the benefits."

A CENTURY OF INDUSTRY.
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE. A FUTURE OF GROWTH.

The polymer and petrochemical industry in West Virginia has been growing for more than a century. By the 1990s, state and regional leaders recognized that West Virginia still possessed a valuable polymer industry cluster, even as several major corporations were downsizing.

Governor Gaston Caperton created the Polymer Alliance Zone of West Virginia (PAZ) on March 8, 1996, through an executive order as a state pilot project. The original region included Wood, Jackson, and Mason counties.

PAZ was established to bring manufacturers, government agencies, educational institutions, and economic-development organizations together around a common goal: the retention, expansion, and recruitment of polymer businesses and supporting industries.

A New Approach to Economic Development

PAZ represented a change in economic-development strategy. Rather than relying primarily on one large corporation, the organization sought to strengthen the entire industrial network, including:

- Existing polymer producers
- Plastics processors
- Chemical suppliers
- Equipment and maintenance firms
- Transportation companies
- Educational institutions
- Workforce programs
- Industrial properties
- Local and state economic-development agencies

This cluster-based approach recognized that the long-term strength of the industry depended not only on major manufacturers, but also on the network of suppliers, workers, educators, service providers, and communities that supported them.



Plastic concept car developed by Borg Warner/Marbon.

Establishing the Organization (1997)

By 1997, PAZ had a "loaned" executive, Tom Linder, serving as executive director. Robert Bowman of Shell Chemical had also begun what would become a six-year term as president. Bylaws, a Board of Directors, and designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit economic-development organization followed quickly. By 1999, the Polymer Alliance Zone was a fully established organization recognized by the State of West Virginia. That same year, PAZ hired its first full-time executive director, R.V. "Buddy" Graham.



Workforce Development and New Initiatives (Early 2000's)

In the early 2000s, PAZ partnered with West Virginia University at Parkersburg and the West Virginia Development Office to initiate a pre-employment training program designed to identify and develop a pool of available workers for companies within the Polymer Alliance Zone. PAZ also initiated a study comparing construction costs in West Virginia with those in surrounding states.

In 1998, PAZ became part of a joint effort to recycle obsolete government equipment. From that initiative, the Mid-Atlantic Center for End-of-Life Electronics, known as MARCEE, was created. During this period, the first of three annual VIP Awareness Tours, hosted by Senator Jay Rockefeller and PAZ, also took place. These tours helped bring greater attention to the region and its industrial opportunities.

Creating the Davisville Industrial Campus (2002)

In 2002, the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council and PAZ received a $4.3 million grant from the Economic Development Grant Commission. Combined with $100,000 from PAZ, the funding was used to purchase the former Ames distribution facility and approximately 165 surrounding acres in Davisville, West Virginia. The building initially served as the headquarters of MARCEE.

By 2005, PWP Packaging, which operated a manufacturing facility in Mineral Wells, began occupying space in the Davisville facility. During the same period, PAZ significantly increased its marketing efforts, introducing a new trade-show booth and expanding its domestic and international travel.







Leadership Changes and International Outreach (2006)

In 2006, State Senator Karen Facemyer became vice president of the Polymer Alliance Zone. Later that year, following the retirement of Buddy Graham, she became president of the organization. Graham had led PAZ for seven years.

In 2007, PAZ created a trade-show booth for K, the world's largest plastics and rubber exposition. Held in Düsseldorf, Germany, once every three years, the event provided PAZ with an opportunity to promote West Virginia to an international plastics industry audience.

Expanding the Davisville Technology Park (2009)

By 2009, the MARCEE program had ended, and PWP had leased the entire existing building acquired by PAZ in 2002. PWP subsequently invested approximately $20 million in a major new recycling operation. To accommodate the project, PAZ constructed an 80,000-square-foot building on the Davisville campus in 2012.

That same year, PAZ began construction of another 80,000-square-foot speculative industrial building. The facility was ultimately leased to Sunshine Metals, headquartered in Baker, Louisiana. Sunshine Metals was a supplier of specialty metals.

In 2020, Sunshine Metals' Davisville operation was sold to JWF Industries of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

A New Era of Leadership (2016)

In late 2016, Karen Facemyer resigned from PAZ to accept a new position with state government.

The PAZ Board of Directors appointed Keith Burdette as the organization's new president and CEO. Burdette had previously served as Secretary of Commerce for the State of West Virginia under Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.

His appointment marked the beginning of another period of expansion for the organization, both geographically and through the development and acquisition of industrial property.

Expanding PAZ Across West Virginia (2015-2018)

While PAZ continued to grow its property holdings, it also expanded its geographic footprint across the state.

Originally consisting of only three counties in 1996, PAZ added:

- Pleasants County in 2015
- Tyler County in 2017
- Cabell and Wayne counties in 2018
- Wetzel, Marshall, and Ohio counties in 2023

This expansion broadened PAZ's reach from the Mid-Ohio Valley into additional areas of northern and western West Virginia.

Major Industrial Acquisition in Huntington (2022 & 2023)

In December of 2022, PAZ acquired a 363,000-square-foot industrial building in Huntington, West Virginia. Koppers, which manufactured railroad components, occupied approximately half of the building. Later, Nucor leased the other half for use as a logistics center during construction of its multibillion-dollar steel mill in Mason County.

The acquisition significantly increased PAZ's portfolio of industrial property and extended its physical presence farther into western West Virginia.

In 2023, the West Virginia Polymer Alliance Zone (PAZ) expanded its geographic footprint by adding three Northern Panhandle counties: Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel. This expansion made PAZ the largest regional economic development organization in West Virginia, extending its total reach to 10 counties stretching along the Ohio River from Huntington in the south to Wheeling in the north.



Somar North America and Japanese Investment (2024)

Two significant developments occurred at PAZ's Davisville Technology Park in 2024.

First, Somar North America leased PWP's former recycling building. The Japanese company manufactures epoxy-based insulation materials used in batteries and engines. Somar's recruitment to West Virginia and the Polymer Alliance Zone became significant beyond the initial investment. Futoshi Sotani, the company's third-generation president, began a multiyear effort to help attract additional Japanese companies to the region and the state. Over the following two years, Sotani helped organize visits that brought more than 30 Japanese corporate executives to West Virginia, creating new opportunities to introduce international business leaders to the state.



PAZ Completes Build-Ready Site, Paving the Way for New Development

For some time, PAZ has focused on maximizing the value of the property it owns. As part of that strategy, in 2020, PAZ developed a build-ready site in the Davisville Technology Park. In 2024, the completed site was sold to Amazon, which built a distribution facility that opened in early winter 2025.

When the West Virginia Legislature passed a "site ready" program in 2025, PAZ was prepared to take advantage of the opportunity. The plan was to transform 26 acres in the southern portion of the park into an approximately 15-acre build-ready pad capable of accommodating up to three buildings.

Pickering and Associates immediately began the permitting and design work. In spring 2026, the site work was put out for bid, with SAFECO selected as the winning bidder.

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority and United Bank provided loans totaling $605,000, combined with an additional $495,000 from PAZ reserves, funded completion of the project.

With the site now complete, the next step is to develop a spec building. Preliminary discussions have begun with the West Virginia Division of Economic Development to develop a plan for constructing the first of several potential buildings. These facilities would give PAZ an even stronger tool for attracting new businesses and creating jobs within the Polymer Alliance Zone.



Sauer Brings New Manufacturing Growth (2026)

In January 2026, Sauer, a Columbus-based metal-fabrication company, leased the building previously occupied by JWF Industries.

The company quickly grew beyond its initial projections, adding another manufacturing operation to the Davisville Technology Park and reinforcing PAZ's strategy of maintaining flexible industrial space capable of supporting growing companies.

Preparing the Next Generation of Industrial Sites

In 2025 and 2026, PAZ joined West Virginia's YES Site Ready program. Twenty-six acres at the southern end of the Davisville Technology Park were targeted for development, including the construction of a new 15-acre build-ready pad. Plans call for as many as three new industrial buildings to be constructed on the site. Upon completion of these projects, PAZ is expected to own and manage more than 1 million square feet of industrial space throughout the Polymer Alliance Zone.

Strengthening the PAZ Leadership Team (2025-2026)

PAZ also continued to expand its leadership team. In 2025, Pat Ford joined the organization as vice president. Ford brought extensive experience in both public- and private-sector economic development, including service as executive director of the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle, serving Brooke and Hancock counties.

In early 2026, Cam Huffman joined PAZ as its new director of external relations. In addition to his experience in government relations, Huffman had previously served as president of the Wood County Development Authority.

"PAZ has grown from an effort to preserve an existing polymer cluster into an organization positioned to support a much broader range of advanced manufacturing, logistics, and industrial development opportunities across West Virginia."

Continuing the Mission

From its creation as a three-county pilot project in 1996 to its present-day role as a multicounty economic-development organization with a growing industrial real-estate portfolio, the Polymer Alliance Zone has continued to evolve.

It's mission, however, remains rooted in the strategy established at its beginning: bringing together industry, government, education, workforce development, infrastructure, and economic-development partners to strengthen West Virginia's manufacturing base and create opportunities for future investment.

Through business recruitment, industrial development, workforce initiatives, international outreach, and strategic property investment, PAZ has grown from an effort to preserve an existing polymer cluster into an organization positioned to support a much broader range of advanced manufacturing, logistics, and industrial development opportunities across West Virginia.



Sauer Group Set to Create Up to 50 Jobs at Davisville Facility

The Sauer Group, LLC joined the PAZ family in January of this year when they leased 80,000 square feet in our Polymer Technology Park in Davisville, West Virginia for their newest location. Already their growth has exceeded their earlier expectations. Their original projections were to employee 20 employees by the end of the first year. Because of their anticipated workload at the site expectations are they could reach 50 employees by the end of year one.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Sauer Group provides a wide range of mechanical construction and industrial services, including process piping, fabrication, equipment installation, instrumentation, and industrial maintenance. The company also operates fabrication facilities capable of producing pipes, vessels, and skid assemblies for complex industrial systems.

The new location within the Polymer Alliance Zone Industrial Complex will support fabrication and industrial services tied to regional manufacturing and energy projects. Founded in 1876, Sauer Group is part of a family of companies under Sauer Holdings and provides mechanical contracting services to industrial, manufacturing, energy, and commercial clients across the Midwest and beyond. Sauer Group brings extensive experience in industrial fabrication and mechanical systems that support large-scale manufacturing and process facilities. Their presence strengthens the industrial ecosystem PAZ is building in the region.

According to Cam Huffman, Director of External Relations for PAZ, the company's decision to locate in the Polymer Alliance Zone Industrial Complex demonstrates the growing momentum of the region's advanced manufacturing sector. "Sauer Group's investment reinforces the role of the Polymer Alliance Zone as a hub for industrial growth in West Virginia," Huffman said. "Companies that support fabrication, maintenance, and construction for large-scale manufacturing operations are critical to building a complete industrial supply chain in the region."

PAZ Hits the Road — AND THE GLOBE — to Attract New Industry













As the Polymer Alliance Zone has grown, so has our marketing efforts. "PAZ represents ten important West Virginia counties that has both a strong existing industrial base and a great potential to grow it even larger. We can and should be leaders in our state for industrial recruitment and development. To accomplish that we must carry a positive message about why we are a good place to invest to wherever a potential prospect may express interest after, said PAZ President Keith Burdette.

During the past twelve months the PAZ team has travelled the globe. They continue to partner with the West Virginia Division of Economic Development and its team of professionals, the United States Department of Commerce, its Select USA team, and our six local economic development groups.

This year PAZ has travelled to Canada, Japan, Turkey, Belgium, and the Netherlands. We have participated in the AMI Plastics World trade show; Pack Expo; US Commercial Services Select USA world outreach program; the World Chemical Forum; Southern Economic Development Council's Site Selectors forum; the US Department of Commerce's Select USA international recruitment event in National Harbor, Maryland; the West Virginia Brownfields Conference; as well as the West Virginia Economic Development Council's annual fall meeting in Snowshoe, West Virginia.

Keith Burdette has served on the World Affairs Council Board of Directors, the Board and Executive Committee of Shale Crescent USA, and the Board of Directors of the Huntington Area Development Council (HADCO). PAZ is a partner in a new West Virginia program called Reshore WV, designed to identify opportunities to reshore manufacturing to West Virginia where we believe there is a strategic advantage.

PAZ hosted a large delegation of Japanese business executives in July and has met with representatives of South American businesses, as well as those from Taiwan, Japan, Oman, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Columbia, Tunisia, and Belgium, not to mention countless domestic companies from across the United States.

As we look ahead to our fourth decade, PAZ completed a new five-year strategic plan that was developed through an all-day strategic planning session moderated by Tom Heywood of the law firm of Bowles Rice. As we begin planning for 2027, PAZ hopes to significantly increase its marketing budget; boost its travel outreach; and strengthen its messaging, all so we can achieve our core mission to increase investment and the creation of new, good paying jobs in the Polymer Alliance Zone.

Amazon Investment Marks New Chapter in Mid-Ohio Valley Economy.





The West Virginia Polymer Alliance Zone welcomed Amazon as its newest regional partner on March 31st as the company cut the ribbon on its investment in a 70,000-square-foot logistics facility located within the PAZ Industrial Park in Davisville, marking another step forward in the Mid-Ohio Valley's and PAZ's continued economic growth.

Amazon's presence in Wood County reflects the region's increasing role in the national supply chain and highlights the strength of its infrastructure, workforce, and strategic location.

Their investment is a strong endorsement of the work being done across our communities to prepare sites, strengthen infrastructure, and position the Mid-Ohio Valley for long-term success. As one of the world's most recognized and data-driven companies, Amazon's decision to locate in the PAZ region carries significance beyond the immediate investment. The company's rigorous site selection process evaluates logistics access, workforce readiness, infrastructure capacity, and long-term scalability—factors that increasingly define competitive regions.

Locating a 70,000-square-foot facility within the PAZ Industrial Park further underscores the importance of development-ready sites and coordinated regional planning. By investing in infrastructure and advancing site readiness, the region can compete for projects that require speed, certainty, and scalability. Landing a company of this caliber reinforces that the Mid-Ohio Valley meets those standards and is well-positioned to attract additional investment. It also sends a strong signal to other companies that the region is not only competitive, but ready to support complex, fast-moving operations.

PAZ has worked alongside local and state partners to advance site readiness efforts, promote the region's industrial assets, and support the coordination necessary to help projects move efficiently from concept to operation. "We've taken a proactive, regional approach to economic development, and this is exactly the type of investment that reflects that strategy," Burdette added. "We look forward to Amazon being a long-term partner in our region's continued growth." Amazon's investment further strengthens the Mid-Ohio Valley's position as a hub for logistics and advanced industry, while creating new opportunities for workforce development and future business recruitment.

What's Happening In PAZ



Cabell County

Alcon Expansion – Alcon's approximately $81 million expansion of its Cabell County operations, is expected to create approximately 75 new jobs and expand the company's advanced ophthalmic manufacturing capabilities.

Marshall University IDEA District – Continued development of Marshall University's $300+ million IDEA District connecting the university and downtown Huntington through technology, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development and private-sector collaboration.

Foundry Redevelopment & Kroger Marketplace: The revitalization of the historic Foundry site into a modern mixed-use hub, anchored by the construction of a new Kroger Marketplace. This project represents a major private-public investment in brownfield transformation, bringing essential retail, jobs, and commercial energy to Huntington's core.

Jackson County



Constellium Ravenswood / NASA Artemis II – Aluminum produced by Constellium's more than 1,100 employees in Ravenswood played a significant role in NASA's historic Artemis II mission. The Ravenswood facility produces advanced aerospace-grade aluminum plate, including Airware® aluminum-lithium alloys, used throughout NASA's Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft. Constellium has described the Ravenswood-produced aluminum as being used essentially "tip to tail" throughout the Artemis II vehicle, including structural applications in the Orion crew capsule carrying the astronauts.

Ravenswood / Millwood Advanced Materials and Industrial Development Continued development of the major advanced-materials and energy cluster surrounding Ravenswood and Millwood, including Constellium and the Berkshire Hathaway Energy Renewables / Precision Castparts / TIMET development, along with infrastructure improvements being made to support additional industrial growth.

Marshall County

Calpine Energy Center – Calpine's planned investment of more than $1 billion in a new approximately 500-MW natural-gas-fired power generation facility near Moundsville. The project represents a major private investment in Marshall County and is expected to create hundreds of construction jobs while adding significant new electrical generation capacity.

Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion – Continued investment in broadband infrastructure across Marshall County, including the regional fiber expansion connecting underserved areas in Marshall, Wetzel and Ohio counties and strengthening infrastructure available to residents and businesses.

Mason County



Current Hydro- Robert C. Byrd Hydropower Project
The Robert C. Byrd Hydroelectric Project is a 28.5 MW facility under construction at the existing Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam on the Ohio River, Mason County.

An estimated $116 M investment, the project will generate 165,000 MWh of carbon-free electricity annually—enough to power over 15,000 homes.
During the 2-year construction period, this project will support 200 skilled tradespeople and 100 support staff with up to 10 permanent jobs once operational.

The project represents a long-term investment in West Virginia's energy infrastructure, with anticipated operations for 50+ years and average salaries of full-time operators expected to start at $75,000. Environmental features include fish-friendly turbine design, bald eagle nesting platforms, and ADA-compliant recreational access. This $20B investment will create 5,500+ construction jobs, 2,800 full-time jobs and over $80M in annual tax revenue at completion.

Nscale- Monarch Compute Campus:
Nscale's Monarch Compute Campus in Mason County is set to bring the most advanced AI technology to West Virginia. Developed in collaboration with NVIDIA and Caterpillar, the site is the first-ever state-certified Artificial Intelligence (AI) Microgrid in the United States.

Designed as a multi-phase campus, Phase 1 is currently under construction and is engineered to host 1.35GW of AI computing capacity, with delivery targeted by early 2028. The project has a clear expansion path to 8GW+ as workload demand grows and additional phases are undertaken.

Generating all of its own power on-site, Monarch is fully independent of the public electric grid. Additionally, the campus' cooling systems run on a closed loop, meaning no municipal drinking water is used for operations

Ohio County



Wheeling Gateway Center – Continued advancement of the Wheeling Gateway Visitors & Heritage Center, including redevelopment of the former Wheeling Inn property and plans to create a new gateway into downtown Wheeling connecting visitors with the waterfront, Heritage Trail, tourism assets and downtown businesses.

Downtown Wheeling Redevelopment – Continued public and private investment in downtown Wheeling, including major redevelopment, hospitality, housing, commercial and infrastructure projects that are helping reposition the downtown and riverfront for additional investment.

Pleasants County

Industrial Site Readiness – Continued efforts to prepare Pleasants County property for future industrial recruitment, including the county's 2026 award through West Virginia's Ready Sites Program to advance development-ready industrial property.

Tyler County



New Sistersville General Hospital – Memorial Health System broke ground in 2025 on a new Sistersville General Hospital, representing a significant investment in healthcare infrastructure for Tyler County and the surrounding region. The new facility will expand inpatient capacity, emergency services, diagnostic capabilities and access to specialty care.

Tyler County Broadband Expansion – Continued expansion of high-speed fiber infrastructure through the approximately $3.8 million USDA ReConnect project. The project includes roughly 74 miles of new fiber and is designed to extend broadband access to more than 1,300 homes, farms and businesses throughout portions of Tyler County.

Wayne County

Central Appalachia Inland Port at Prichard – Continued activation and development of the former Heartland Intermodal Gateway under R.J. Corman, strengthening Wayne County's rail, logistics and industrial capabilities.



Fort Gay High School Adaptive Reuse Project – Coalfield Development Corporation's continued redevelopment of the former Fort Gay High School into productive community space. Eight affordable apartments on the second floor are nearing completion, and a recently awarded $50,000 historic preservation grant will support rehabilitation of the first-floor exterior as the building is prepared for future commercial, municipal, public and workforce-development uses. The redevelopment has also provided paid, on-the-job construction training opportunities.



Wetzel County

Broadband Expansion – Continued deployment of high-speed fiber infrastructure through the Marshall-Wetzel-Ohio County broadband project, expanding connectivity to underserved homes and businesses and strengthening infrastructure available for future economic development.

Industrial and Chemical Sector Development – Continued positioning of Wetzel County's existing chemical and manufacturing infrastructure, available industrial property and energy assets for additional investment and business recruitment, particularly around the New Martinsville industrial corridor.

Wood County



402 Avery Street / Historic Henry Logan House Redevelopment – Wood County Economic Development's rehabilitation of the historic former Civil War hospital at 402 Avery Street in downtown Parkersburg. The approximately $1.2 million project preserves an important historic property while creating a permanent home for Wood County Economic Development and Downtown PKB.

PowerFlo Solutions – Williamstown – PowerFlo Solutions' approximately $20 million investment to establish manufacturing operations in the former Hino facility in Williamstown, bringing a major advanced-manufacturing operation and new employment to Wood County.

Japanese Business Executives Visit PAZ

For the second time in two and a half years, Futoshi Sotani, the President of Somar based in Tokyo, Japan, and with a location in PAZ's Technology Park in Davisville, West Virginia, helped organize a delegation of Japanese corporate executives for a week-long visit to West Virginia. Seventeen executives, representing 14 different companies, joined PAZ from July 12 through July 17, for a series of meetings with government officials and local, regional, and state economic development leaders. The delegation also toured a variety of industries across the state.

In addition to meetings in Charleston, the delegation visited Marshall University's Business Center, Nucor, K.S. of West Virginia in Ravenswood, Hino Motors in Mineral Wells, and Chemours, Celanese, Delrin, and Kuraray in Washington, West Virginia. They also spent time at WVU-P's new Technology Campus.

The delegation had several opportunities to relax and enjoy West Virginia, including receptions at the Children's Discovery Center in Parkersburg, a dinner cruise on the Ohio River, dinner at Commerce Secretary Matt Herridge's home in Charleston, and a reception hosted by Governor Patrick Morrisey. The Wood County Commission helped underwrite the local costs of many of the events with a $15,000 contribution.

Throughout the visit, there were important opportunities to discuss business prospects and begin exploring opportunities for the companies to locate new operations in West Virginia and within the Polymer Alliance Zone.





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PAZ
SUPER SITES

- Over 1,500,000 square feet
- Over 5,000 acres



PAZ Becomes a Leader in Site Identification

One of the most critical issues in recruiting a manufacturing company to PAZ is being able to help them find a site that meets the company's needs. Over the years, the details that are essential in that process have dramatically expanded. Detailed information on power, both electric and gas are important. Prospects want to know the ability to expand power capacity to meet current and future needs. It's important to be able to confirm where all the necessary utilities are in relationship to the site. What is the available capacity of water and sewer? Is there fiber to the premises? What are the distances to major highways and airports? Is there rail or river access? There is a litany of other questions that are important in the site selection process.

PAZ recognized that, while some information was available, there were a lot of gaps that needed to be filled to successfully recruit a company to our region. With that in mind, PAZ developed the Super Sites programs, with locations in every county within the zone. We worked closely with AEP, First Energy, Hope and Mountaineer Gas to be able to provide up to date information on available power. We called PSDs and other utility providers to obtain other important utility information. Working with our local EDA partners we obtained recent pictures and reached out to several property owners for additional information.

We mixed old-school marketing with new technology to create a user-friendly system that could be easily accessed online or with a paper rack card that could be provided during a visit or at a trade show. We rolled the system out for the first time at Select USA, and it was an immediate hit. One prospect picked a rack card of a site, carried it with him throughout the trade show before asking us to take the other cards off display until he had a chance to pursue it. At one point, a competing state asked, "Who is the consultant that developed this system. We would like to talk to them."

With almost 50 sites now included on-line PAZ's Super Sites are becoming a go-to location for site information in the ten-counties of PAZ. We are committed to growing this effort and being the leader in our region on industrial sites.





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