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Bodine Aluminum to make new parts, add jobs as part of Toyota's \$55 million expansion effort

Posted on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 9:13 am

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Toyota announced last week it will increase annual production capacity of six-speed automatic transmission from approximately 400,000 to 520,000 at its plant in Buffalo, W.Va. The increase begins November 2012 and will be completed by July 2013. Approximately \$45 million in investment will create about 80 new jobs in West Virginia.

Bodine Aluminum will provide transmission cases and housing parts to the West Virginia plant. The expansion represents approximately 25 new jobs and more than \$10 million investment for the Troy, Mo. plant.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia, Inc. (TMMWV) currently builds six-speed transmissions for the Avalon, Camry, Lexus RX350, Sienna and Venza, all built in North America.

The expansion raises total employment to approximately 1,200 and total plant investment to \$1.3 billion.

Bodine Aluminum will also add capacity to support TMMWV.

"As governor I am pleased that Bodine Aluminum plans to expand its operations in Troy by making a new investment of \$10.3 million that will create 25 new jobs for hard working Missourians," said Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon. "Missouri is leading the rebirth of America's automotive industry, and we are seeing unprecedented opportunities for automotive suppliers to expand and grow in our state. This expansion by one of our major auto suppliers is another significant step forward for Missouri."

"We are very excited about the news," said Terry Henderson, general manager of administration for Bodine in Troy. "We will be refurbishing some high pressure diecasting equipment to produce the new automatic transmission parts. We are confident and with the employees we have, we will produce top quality products."

Test production trials have been conducted here in Troy with actual production slated for the fall of 2013.

Bodine in Troy currently employs 520 people on three shifts.

West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin: "I am so pleased that for the second time in approximately a year, Toyota will expand the Buffalo plant due to the success of their diligent, hard-working, and devoted employees. Toyota's commitment to excellence coupled with the strong West Virginia work ethic is a match made for positive economic growth benefitting both the company and the community." About Toyota

Toyota established operations in North America in 1957 and currently operates 14 manufacturing plants. There are more than 1,800 Toyota, Lexus and Scion dealerships in North America which sold nearly 2 million vehicles in 2011. Toyota directly employs more than 35,000 in North America and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$23 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design. Toyota's annual purchasing of parts, materials, goods and services from North American suppliers totals nearly \$25 billion. Toyota currently produces 12 vehicles in North America, including the Avalon, Camry, Corolla, Highlander, Matrix, RAV4, Sienna, Sequoia, Tacoma, Tundra, Venza and the Lexus RX 350.

By Bob Simmons

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