

auto2auto.com Brings Corporate Headquarters to Middle Tennessee Move to create up to 500 new jobs in Maury County

May 24, 2006

auto2auto.com, a full-service online used car dealership, will open its corporate headquarters in Maury County, creating 200 new jobs in the first year and up to 300 more over the next three years. The company has signed an agreement to purchase the 341,000-square-foot former GE/Accuride Building off Industrial Park Road in Columbia.

auto2auto.com allows consumers to browse, finance and buy certified used vehicles online. The vehicle is delivered to the customer through Pep Boys auto parts stores, which has partnered with auto2auto.com to conduct rigorous auto inspections at the company's new Maury County corporate headquarters and warehouse facility, or another designated pick-up area. Missouri-based Dent Wizard International, a paintless dent removal company, will also be part of auto2auto's Middle Tennessee operations. auto2auto.com maintains an extensive inventory of certified used vehicles.

auto2auto.com CEO Ben Freeland said the company will begin filling the initial positions in Columbia immediately, most of which are call center, sales and management positions, including information technology, accounting and marketing positions. Interested applicants should apply for positions through the Tennessee Career Center by contacting Judy Vick at julia.vick@state.tn.us or visiting the nearest career center.

"This operation really marks the launch of our new concept, and we felt there were a number of logistical and other advantages to launching it in the Nashville area," Freeland said. "This facility will house all functions of auto2auto, from our corporate staff, sales and customer care to the vehicle reconditioning and distribution."

A consortium of local and state officials worked with auto2auto to successfully recruit the company. They include the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and its Partnership 2010 economic development initiative, the Maury County Alliance, the City of Columbia and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Tennessee ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber recognized the teamwork and creativity used in attracting the auto2auto.com headquarters to the state, noting Maury County as a good fit for the company's growth plans.

"We are thrilled to announce auto2auto.com as our latest corporate headquarters location," said Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber. "By working hand-in-hand with our economic development partners, we are sharing in the success of yet another important job creation announcement in our state. auto2auto adds to the emerging sector of Tennessee-based companies using the convenience and ease of technology to reach customers and increase their competitiveness. We believe this new headquarter facility in Maury County will help to position the company for future growth."

Matt Largen, director of business recruitment with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and its 10-county Partnership 2010 initiative, worked extensively with Freeland and other

officials since November 2005 to recruit auto2auto.com and its corporate headquarters to Middle Tennessee.

“When we first talked with Ben and his partners about auto2auto.com and its potential launch here, we were immediately intrigued and impressed with the business concept,” Largen said. “The relationship with Pep Boys gives them instant recognition and credibility. We look forward to working with auto2auto and our economic development partners to ensure the company gets off to a solid start in Middle Tennessee.”

Frank Tamberrino, president of the Maury Alliance, said auto2auto.com’s location in Columbia represents one of the largest new investments in Maury County since W.R. Grace Co. announced a \$20 million capital investment in Mt. Pleasant earlier this year.

“We’re out there selling Maury County to business relocation prospects every day and are really happy auto2auto chose us for its new facility,” Tamberrino said. “I’ve really enjoyed working with auto2auto. We started out looking at smaller properties, but it evolved into a much bigger operation with a remarkably quick turnaround. After the decision to bring the headquarters to Columbia, the project went from start to finish in less than two months.”

Michael Reid, a broker with Binswanger of Atlanta, represented the building owner in the sale. auto2auto officials represented themselves in purchase negotiations.

auto2auto.com is a full-service licensed online used care dealership and a division of the Naples, Florida-based Mobile Internet Technologies. Since 1999, Mobile Internet Technologies has been an innovative force in online automotive sales and services. For more information, please visit www.auto2auto.com