

Forward McDuffie and the Stone Industrial Park gain Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) Site Designation

Stone Industrial Site has been named a market-ready site by Georgia Allies
Stone Industrial Park is now a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development Site

June 10, 2013—Thomson, GA - Forward McDuffie announced today that Stone Industrial Park has been named a Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (**GRAD**) by the Georgia Allies, a public-private partnership focused on economic development marketing.

“The GRAD designation for Stone Industrial Site means that it can truly compete on a global stage for new industry and the accompanying jobs,” said Pat Wilson, Executive Director of Georgia Allies, and COO of the Department of Economic Development. “I fully believe that Thomson-McDuffie County’s efforts to attain the GRAD status for Stone Park will be beneficial.”

Thomson-McDuffie County’s newest park, Stone Industrial, is perfectly located less than a half mile north of I-20 and State Highway 150 at exit 175. The Stone Park is part of a larger industrial corridor that consists of 636 acres total. The western part of this development (Advance Industrial Park) is completely developed with only 66 acres remaining. The Advance Park is anchored by a large Advance Auto Distribution Center. The entire Stone Industrial Park is 420 acres. The GRAD Certified part of the park is a total of 259 acres, with the front 72 acres being completely graded and ready for industrial development.

The GRAD designation indicates that Stone Industrial Park is market-ready. The designation also includes several tools to market the site, including:

- Program benefits on the Georgia Department of Economic Development website
- Highlighted listings on the industrial site databases of major electric utility Web sites
- Continued presence on Georgia Allies electronic newsletter targeted to companies and location consultants
- Site awareness for statewide project managers and Georgia Allies partners

“The Stone Industrial Site is now the only GRAD Site on I-20 from Metro Atlanta to South Carolina, said Ralph Staffins. I think that this designation, along with all of the aggressive actions from our community in the preparation of this site, have created one of the preeminent industrial sites in all of the State of Georgia.”

Development Authority Chairman Riley Stamey said, “This designation is an integral part of our strategic plan to prepare for future job growth in our market area”