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Message from JCA CEO, Courtney Bernardi



Success doesn't just happen. Economic Development is a team sport, and it takes the efforts of many to reach the top. In the City of Johns Creek, we are thankful to have partners like you; partners who have joined the Johns Creek Advantage economic development team and are willing to go the distance to take home the win.

With your support, we hope to capitalize on the resources here in Johns Creek and catapult this great city to the next level. Bringing Johns Creek to the next level includes making it a place where executives want to relocate their businesses and families, a place where both large and small business can succeed, and a place that is on the radar of individuals around the globe.

After all, it isn't just about relocating your business; it is about relocating your family. It's about creating your sense of place and becoming part of a community with a desire to constantly become the best it can be!

Speaking of becoming part of the community and finding a sense of place, we would like to thank Piedmont Office Realty Trust for working with us to acquire a new and permanent office space for JCA. Piedmont Office Realty Trust is one of the initial JCA investors, and we are so thankful to call their building at 11695 Johns Creek Parkway our new home .

TA Associates Announces Majority Investment in Bomgar

TA Associates, a leading global growth private equity firm, today announced it has completed an investment in Bomgar, a leading provider of enterprise remote support solutions. Additional terms of the investment were not disclosed.

Bomgar's software solutions enable technology support professionals to securely access and control remote computer systems and devices anywhere in the world. Bomgar's products are used to support a wide range of devices—from laptops, servers, smartphones and tablets, to point of sale (POS) systems, medical devices and kiosks—as well as conduct remote training and presentations and manage third-party vendor access. The company serves a large number of Fortune 500 companies and other enterprises in numerous sectors, including education, financial services, government, healthcare, insurance, retail and technology. Founded in 2003, Bomgar has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing private companies in North America, and today has more than 8,000 corporate customers in 65 countries. Bomgar will continue to be headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, with offices in Atlanta, Washington D.C., London, Paris and Singapore.

According to IDC, the clientless remote support market that Bomgar serves has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 19% since 2012. [Read more.](#)



NEW

Office Location & Contact Information:

**11695 Johns Creek Pkwy,
Suite 275
Johns Creek, Georgia 30097**

Courtney Bernardi, CEO
cbernardi@johnscreekadvantage.org
(470) 545-9901

**Bethany Lavigno, Director of
Entrepreneurs & Small Businesses**
blavigno@johnscreekadvantage.org
(470) 375-7524

Georgia's on Investors' Minds

This year's list of the Top 10 Competitive States has the Peach State comfortably ensconced in first place with 426 points — 12 more than the 414 that Texas earned to win first place last year. The Lone Star State actually dropped two spots to third place, making room for Tennessee to finish in second place with 421 points.

In November 2013, the magazine named Georgia the state with the Top Business Climate — a recognition that North Carolina or Texas have claimed for the past several years. And now, we are the Top Competitive State. Is this a pattern?

“When I took office in January 2011, I made a promise to the people of Georgia that we wouldn't stop until our state was the No. 1 place in the nation to do business,” Gov. Nathan Deal tells Site Selection. “Not only are these rankings a testament to our dedication to improving the state's business climate, but it also speaks to the commitment and support from our industry partners, communities and the citizens of Georgia.

“We have the resources, partnerships and tools needed to build a network for new and existing industries, international exports, entertainment productions, tourism opportunities and much more.”

Speaking of exports, Gov. Nathan Deal announced in February that Georgia has experienced a record increase in both exports and imports for the fourth consecutive year. According to the Census Bureau, the state moved up one position ranking in both exports and imports. Georgia increased from the 12th largest exporting state to the 11th in 2013. The state also increased from the 9th largest importing state to the country's 8th largest importing state. More than 90 percent of Georgia's total trade was with Asia, Europe and North America. [Read more.](#)

Cognizant Acquiring itaas

Itaas, a Johns Creek-based company that helps cable TV, telcos and other clients deliver interactive content, live streaming and video services on digital platforms, will be acquired by Teaneck, N.J.-based Cognizant.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Itaas' custom software services help companies deliver digital video across cable, IP and wireless technologies to TV set-tops, tablets, smartphones and other devices. The company has about 200 employees in Atlanta, Canada and India.

Cognizant is a provider of information technology, consulting, and business process outsourcing services. The company has about 171,000 employees worldwide.

Itaas Chief Executive Officer Vibha Rustagi said the deal will allow her company to provide a broader range of services, given Cognizant's global reach.

“International expansion is critical for us to continue our strong growth and provide greater opportunities for our employees,” Rustagi said in announcing the deal Tuesday.

Rustagi co-founded itaas (the company lower cases its name, which stands for “interactive television and application solutions”) in 1999 with Scientific-Atlanta colleague Jatin Desai and Jaspal Bhasin.

Tech Talent Pool Concerns sting Georgia Leaders

Duluth-based NCR needs more software developers and it's among the Georgia companies having difficulty hiring such professionals in the metro Atlanta area.

Home Depot can't find enough software developers in metro Atlanta to fend off the threat of e-commerce retailers like Amazon. So the Atlanta-based home improvement giant opened and staffed technology centers in California and Texas.

The home improvement giant also imports about two-thirds of its 700 or so programming geeks based in Atlanta from other states and countries to build smartphone apps and other technologies.

The hiring issues underscore Georgia's challenge in battling other technology hot-beds like Silicon Valley.

“At the end of the day, we don't have the talent pool in Georgia,” Eric Schelling, Home Depot's director of talent acquisition, said during the first meeting of the Governor's High Demand Careers Initiative.

Tuesday's meeting at the Georgia Tech Research Institute was the first of 12 stops in a listening tour for top state leaders to learn about the jobs of the future, with hopes of better aligning university and technical college curricula and training programs with businesses' needs.

Schelling's remarks elicited gasps from an audience that included the state's top economic development, education and workforce development officials. [Read more.](#)