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GLOBAL BUSINESS FINDS NEW FRONTIERS

The economic relationship between the United States and Japan has entered a new phase, one defined not only by trade, but also by deeper partnerships in innovation, investment and regional development.

Across the United States, cities and regions are seeing a steady influx of Japanese investment. From advanced manufacturing to aerospace, biotechnology and financial services, Japanese companies have created a new climate of industrial collaboration.

For American communities, these partnerships have delivered high-quality jobs, valuable technology and resilient supply chains. The scale of the influx is significant.

Last year, Japan announced a \$550 billion investment package for the United States, which underscores the deep trust between the allies and shows Japan's unwavering confidence in the American market.

Across the country, governors and mayors are promoting their own regions as the ideal destinations for Japanese companies looking to expand globally. Local and regional economic development organizations are working closely with Japanese partners to ensure they receive the support needed to succeed.

For foreign investors, the United States offers unmatched market scale, technological leadership and regulatory regimes designed to support business growth.

For American communities, on the other hand, Japanese investment brings stability, long-term commitment and global connectivity.

In Texas, where Japanese investment has played a significant role in the state's economic growth, cities are actively strengthening their partnerships with the Japanese business community.

"Our goal is to be globally connected, and Japan has become a natural partner for Arlington as we build long-term relationships grounded in shared opportunity and trust," said **Marty Wieder, executive director of the Arlington Economic Development Corp.**

In nearby Cedar Park, economic planners have focused on advanced manufacturing, aerospace and life sciences amid the intense competition to attract foreign investment.

As part of its growth strategy, the city is rolling out various incentives and building the right infrastructure to attract innovative companies and encourage long-term investment from Japan, according to **Arthur Jackson, chief economic development officer of Cedar Park.**

Meanwhile, as the state's financial and commercial capital, Dallas has continued to attract the most investment from around the world, particularly in the financial and biotechnology sectors.

Heather Lepeska, the deputy director of the City of Dallas Office of Economic Development, said the city's economy has continued expanding and has become more diversified, creating new opportunities for local and international companies and generating more jobs for Americans.

Beyond the huge metropolises in the United States, smaller cities and towns have aggressively promoted themselves as ideal strategic partners and cost-effective locations for Japanese investment.

Gina Czubachowski, the executive director of the North Central Illinois Economic Development Corp., said several communities across the U.S. Midwest provide the reliable infrastructure, logistics connectivity and manufacturing

expertise needed to meet the needs of Japanese firms.

Back in Texas, Carrollton is highlighting its proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex to attract new foreign and domestic investment.

Jenny Zeifelder, the director of economic development for Carrollton, stressed that building relationships with Japanese companies will remain the focus of its longterm growth plan. ■

DALLAS: WELCOME TO 'Y'ALL STREET'



Dallas remains the undisputed financial capital of Texas.

For Japanese companies seeking a stable base in the United States, Dallas in northern Texas has proved to be a winning proposition for international investors.

According to **Kevin Spath, director of the City of Dallas Office of Economic Development,** the state's third-most-populous city has attracted more foreign capital and approved new projects as the city government stepped up its progrowth economic agenda.

Among the city's newest projects is a mixed-use development near the Galleria area. Called The Premier, the project is a partnership between Dallas-based Anthem Development, Beck Ventures and Japanese joint venture PLT America, run by Toyota Motor Corp. and Panasonic Holdings Corp.

While Japanese capital has been present in Texas for many years, Spath says the project shows that Dallas is a wise choice for long-term investments, especially in mixed-use property development.

Since 2023, according to Spath, Dallas has operated under an updated incentive framework that provides a "toolbox" for supporting projects that boost employment and strengthen the city's communities. Goldman Sachs' downtown campus is another project that involved substantial local participation.

As Japanese companies head to Dallas, attracted by its investor-friendly policies and deep labor pool, Spath stressed the city is open to a wide variety of businesses, noting that "Diversity is our strength." ■

<https://www.dallasecdev.org>

ARLINGTON STAKES ITS FUTURE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

As part of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the United States, Arlington provides businesses with access to more than 15 airports, major rail networks and direct links to three interstate highways, facilitating the seamless transport of goods across North America and the rest of the world.

The **Arlington Economic Development Corp.** has revised its global strategy by bolstering its high-impact investments. Its priorities include raising the city's regional competitiveness and infrastructure redevelopment, and improving its community facilities. But its most ambitious objective is to expand its links with Japan.

"The opportunity for collaboration between Japan, the United States, and especially with Texas is enormous. When communities create the right ecosystem, through talent, infrastructure and connectivity, Japanese companies maximize their potential and succeed in ways that benefit both economies," said **Executive Director Marty Wieder,** who highlighted the city's economic and demographic diversity, excellent education ecosystem and long-standing ties with U.S. industrial giants like General Motors and Bell Textron.

As host of the Japan-Texas Economic Summit for three straight years (2026 to 2028), Arlington will position itself as the ideal meeting point for business leaders from both markets. For the fourth consecutive year, Arlington finished in the Top 5 ranking of most diverse large cities in the country as compiled by personal financial website Wallethub.

"The opportunity is huge. We want to move at the speed of business, and our partnerships reflect sincerity, optimism and a longterm mindset," Wieder said.

Arlington is unleashing new opportunities by redeveloping the Great Southwest Industrial District and creating sites for emerging sectors, such as biomedical manufacturing. Recent relocations, such as Finland's Salcomp and Germany's Sportec Solutions, are signs of growing international confidence.

"If companies see that we take care of our own, they know we'll take care of them. That's our 'We can, we do' ethos," Wieder said. ■ <https://arlingtontxedc.com>



Arlington Economic Development Executive Director Marty Wieder



CARROLLTON: AT THE RIGHT PLACE

Carrollton has become one of the most competitive cities in North Texas for international companies. With 136,000 residents and some 8,000 businesses, the community is situated in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and boasts easy access to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, three interstate highways and the Dallas light rail system.

What companies may not initially consider when comparing cities are the long-term impacts of property taxes. When you look at both the tax rate and overall municipal costs together, Carrollton remains one of the lowest-cost cities in the DFW metroplex," said **Director of Economic Development Jenny Zeifelder,** who joined Carrollton last year after more than 11 years working with Japanese investors in Plano.

With that cost advantage, the city has easily filled around 4.2 million square meters (45 million sq. feet) of manufacturing and logistics space by more than 93%, well above the national average.

Murata Electronics, Fujifilm, Fujitec, Daifuku and Glory were among the Japanese investors drawn by Carrollton's location, logistical edge and rising number of Japanese restaurants, stores and retailers.

The city offers property tax rebates for investments of at least \$5 million and performance-based grants linked to job creation and fiscal impact. It also launched a "program that speeds up permit processing and helps foreign investors navigate local regulations."

"I'm very proud to say that Carrollton's permit process is seamless. Most of the time, you can get a permit approved within less than a week, which is unheard of in the DFW metro," Zeifelder said. ■

www.carrolltontxdevelopment.com



Eviva is part of the first phase of Trinity Mills Station, a mixed-use, Class-A development that has direct access to Dallas Area Rail Transit.

WHY GLOBAL INVESTORS TRUST NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Only a 90-minute drive from Chicago, north central Illinois has become one of the Midwest's most trusted hubs for manufacturing and international investment. Home to more than 5,600 companies, the region combines high quality of life, industrial diversity and easy access to 9 million Chicagoans and overnight reach to over 40% of North American consumers.

"We have interstate, river and rail access across all directions," stressed **North Central Illinois Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Gina Czubachowski.**

Sitting at the intersection of two key interstate highways and only a two-hour drive from an international and regional airport, with direct access to major rail



North Central Illinois Economic Development Executive Director Gina Czubachowski

lines and a river system linked to the Mississippi, the region's

seamless connectivity allows manufacturers to move products efficiently and maintain cost advantages. This is a competitive edge that few regions offer, according to Czubachowski.

Unytite, a Japanese fastener producer, has operated in this region for more than 20 years, steadily expanding operations and creating more jobs for Illinoisans. Unytite's long-term presence is a testament to the region's skilled workforce and probusiness environment, Czubachowski noted.

North Illinois also benefits from its proximity to key players in the electric vehicle sector, including Rivian and Stellantis. This puts the region within a growing EV manufacturing corridor and creates new opportunities

for suppliers and advanced manufacturers.

Beyond business, the region also offers affordable housing, family-friendly communities and easy access to nature trails and Starved Rock State Park, Buffalo Rock State Park and Matthiessen State Park.

"Many professionals working in Chicago choose to live here for the quality of life," Czubachowski said. ■

www.northcentralillinois.org



Cedar Park, which shares a border with the state capital Austin, has attracted strong interest from Japanese and Asia-Pacific companies as a stable, high-growth innovation hub with direct access to the North American market.

The city's population has grown by more than 44% over the past decade, demonstrating sustained economic expansion and long-term market stability.

That rapid expansion convinced deep tech companies such as Firefly Aerospace, Hanyang ENG and Nissin Ion Equipment to move their U.S. headquarters to Cedar Park.

At the heart of Cedar Park's transformation is TDK RF Solutions, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based electronics multinational TDK, which selected Cedar Park as a strategic U.S. base for its highly specialized aerospace, defense, electromagnetic compatibility and testing operations.

"TDK is an asset to Cedar Park and a great example of the type of global company that thrives here. They chose Cedar Park because of our skilled workforce, our proximity to Austin's technology ecosystem and our ability to support advanced manufacturing at a global scale," said **Chief Economic Development Officer Arthur Jackson,** who helped bring Tesla and Apple to Austin.

Jackson believes that TDK's presence in Cedar Park should serve as



For its headquarters, Firefly Aerospace chose Cedar Park, whose economic growth strategy is overseen by Chief Economic Development Officer Arthur Jackson.



an assuring endorsement to other prospective investors, Japanese or otherwise.

For Japanese firms, Cedar Park offers a business environment that values long-term relationships, operational reliability and clear communication. The ecosystem is supported by direct international connectivity through major Texas hubs with frequent service to Japan.

"We are intentional about strengthening those relationships," Jackson said, emphasizing Cedar Park's commitment to supporting Japanese companies seeking resilient supply chains, cost-effective U.S. operations and a trusted local partner for long-term growth.

That commitment was precisely why Jackson and his team traveled to Japan in March. ■

<https://cedarparktexasedc.com>