



Threaded Fasteners's new galvanizing facility means components like these will now be manufactured and galvanized in Mobile. The 40-year-old company serves utilities and utility contractors. Pictured here is a cell phone tower model with Threaded Fasteners-made components.

## Threaded Fasteners Adds New Galvanizing Facility

Large bolts that help anchor highway directional signs, cell phone towers and even commercial buildings are now going through the needling protection process to avoid rust and corrosion here in Mobile.

Threaded Fasteners recently completed a \$1.5 million, 12,000-square-foot galvanizing facility and added six new positions, according to **Brian Pugh**, the company's corporate counsel. With the new investment, Threaded Fasteners can complete the galvanizing process onsite for the majority of its products, be more responsive to customer needs and even take on galvanizing products for other companies.

Founded in 1979, the Mobile-based company makes a variety

of large bolts, ranging from two feet to 20 feet in diameter, at its five-acre manufacturing center in Semmes. Threaded Fasteners serves primarily utilities and utility contractors around the country.

In addition to the Semmes manufacturing center, the 40-year-old company's headquarters are in Mobile, with six other U.S. offices in Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma and Tennessee, and approximately 175 employees – half of them in Mobile County. In 2017, Threaded Fasteners added a second manufacturing center in Tampa, Fla., with the acquisition of the privately held Bolt & Nut company.

## AeroStar Receives Trade Excellence Award



Gov. Kay Ivey is pictured with Greg Guzman, president of AeroStar.

Mobile based AeroStar was one of eight companies across the state receiving the 2019 Governor's Trade Excellence Awards, recognizing companies fueling Alabama's robust export business and selling innovative designs and products in markets worldwide.

Providing component maintenance on civilian aircraft, with global customers from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas, AeroStar opened in 2011 with two employees and a 6,000-square-foot facility. The company has grown to 35 employees and more than 25,000 square feet, with space to grow its workforce to 60. The company is targeting Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific Rim to capitalize on projected air traffic growth in those regions.

Interestingly, the week AeroStar received its state award, the company held

a grand opening on its \$2 million expansion project at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, announced in 2018.

"Our winners this year range in size from the small business to the large corporation, and also hail from different parts of Alabama. They each represent the type of company that makes us strong as a state," **Governor Kay Ivey** said.

"We also see a concentration of firms in the aerospace and automotive industries, which underscores the importance of these industries to our economy."

Other winners were: GKN Aerospace–Alabama, Help Lighting, Polyvance, Port of Huntsville, RMCI Inc., Trinity Highway Products and Zorn Molds Inc. According to the Alabama Department of Commerce, the value of Alabama exports topped \$21 billion in 2018 as shipments reached 191 countries.