

Case Study

Georgia resources help Ethicon continue to grow



Ethicon, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, is the worldwide leader in the manufacture of surgical sutures and wound closures. The company's medical device facility in Cornelia, Ga. was founded in 1946 as a Johnson & Johnson plant and in 2013 employed approximately 600 people. Since transitioning to Ethicon in 1980, Ethicon Cornelia's primary products include sutures, needles, meshes and a number of molded components, including screws, clips, anchors and straps.

"We have a long history in Georgia," said Mike Beck, Plant Manager, Ethicon Cornelia. "In 2013, we made a significant investment to enhance our suture manufacturing capabilities at the location of one of our sister companies in Athens. The move enabled us to better support solutions for surgeons and positive outcomes for patients around the world, and it also helped us to support local communities in Georgia where our people live and work. We are pleased to be able to stay and grow in Georgia." Ethicon's expansion in Athens was facilitated by the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) and the Athens-Clarke County Development Foundation. Ethicon works directly with GDEcD when new policy proposals are presented relating to Georgia as a place to do business.

Ethicon takes full advantage of being in Georgia and the state's myriad of resources. The company and the Georgia Institute of Technology formed a partnership that includes the creation of a co-op and internship program through which Ethicon hires highly skilled engineering employees. Additionally, Ethicon reaps the benefits of Georgia's extensive logistics infrastructure. The proximity to the Port of Savannah and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport helps support the company's high volume of shipments to customers around the world.

WHAT GEORGIA OFFERS ETHICON

- > Relationships with leading universities
- > Quality of life for employees
- > Favorable environment for manufacturing
- > Extensive logistics infrastructure

ETHICON
PART OF THE *Johnson & Johnson* FAMILY OF COMPANIES

"From a manufacturing perspective, two elements vital to the industry's continued success in Georgia are: one, a general economic environment that's favorable to manufacturing companies; and two, a pool of qualified people across the technical, mechanical and electrical communities."

Chris Lepore
Senior Director,
State Government Affairs
Johnson & Johnson



About Life Sciences in Georgia

Our diversified life science industry spans the full value chain. This means, in Georgia, an idea can be born, researched, tested, commercialized, produced and then delivered quickly to most anywhere in the world. We understand what your business needs to help solve global health issues and save lives. Georgia's reputation has also been enhanced by the presence of numerous world-renowned biotech and bioscience-related organizations and research and teaching institutions like the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Georgia and Emory University, and Georgia's Technical College System.

About Medical Devices in Georgia

Medical devices and diagnostics in Georgia account for half of life science companies and more than a quarter of the life science workforce.

In 2014, Georgia exports of medical devices, equipment and pharmaceuticals exceeded \$1.3 billion. With the synergy between the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University's biomedical engineering program – ranked 2nd (graduate) and 4th (undergraduate) in the nation – and leading medical device companies like Ethicon, EndoChoice and Given Imaging – Georgia is a global leader for many medical device innovations. The Global Center for Medical Innovation (GCMI) in Georgia is the Southeast's first comprehensive medical device innovation center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the life science team at the Georgia Department of Economic Development
678.252.9345

Georgia.org/MedicalDevices

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