



## German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S., Inc. Tennessee Chapter

### **German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S. Announces Organization of Tennessee Chapter**

The Atlanta-based, German American Chamber of Commerce for the Southern U.S., Inc. (GACC South) recently announced the organization of a Tennessee chapter. "Volkswagen's decision to build production facilities in Tennessee proves that Tennessee's ties to Germany are strong and growing," said Peter Caldwell, of Del Mar Lighting, the new chapter president. "The German American Chamber can be a strong partner for trade between Germany and Tennessee. It has offices throughout the Southern United States and 30 years of experience supporting the economic relationships between the United States and Germany."

The GACC South is part of an international network of 120 German foreign chambers of commerce and government offices in 80 countries. It has built an extensive membership network, with over 750 members located in the Southern U.S. alone.

Germany is the United States' largest European trading partner and is the sixth largest market for U.S. exports<sup>1</sup>. In the first three quarters of 2009, Germany exported more than 39 billion euros (57 billion dollars) worth of goods in the USA and imported goods from the U.S. worth 30 billion euros (44 billion dollars)<sup>2</sup>. With a share of 6.9% of all German exports and 6.3% of all German imports, the U.S. is Germany's third most important trading partner, after France and the Netherlands<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Commercial Service: Doing Business in Germany: 2009 Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies.

<sup>2</sup> German Federal Statistical Office: Press release Nr. 002, dated January 4, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> German Federal Statistical Office: Press release Nr. 363, dated September 24, 2009.

According to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, 84 German companies are now operating in Tennessee, with an announced investment of over three billion dollars. German companies employ more than 11,000 people in Tennessee.

The GACC South provides consulting services to small and medium sized German companies concerning market entry and business expansion in U.S. Markets. The GACC South also acts as point of contact for American companies interested in doing business with Germany or German companies located in Tennessee, and sponsors networking receptions, business, and social programs for its members.

The Tennessee chapter will also provide its members general information about Tennessee, connect German companies with the Tennessee business community, and assist with the establishment and the growth of their business in Tennessee. "The Tennessee chapter can help German employees and their families get settled in Tennessee," said Caldwell. "We can provide information about everything from schools, community activities and cultural events to how to get a driver's license."

For more information about the GACC South please visit our website at [www.gaccsouth.com](http://www.gaccsouth.com) or contact Peter Caldwell, Chapter Director & Membership at [caldwell.p@comcast.net](mailto:caldwell.p@comcast.net).

The Steering committee of the Tennessee Chapter of the German American Chamber of the Southern U.S., Inc.:

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Membership rates:

<b>Membership Level</b>	<b>Rate per Year</b>
Corporate	
Small Business	\$200
Corporate	\$400
Patron	\$800
Individual	\$100
Young Executives	
Students	\$25
Employees of GACC South member companies	\$50
All other	\$75