

Gearing up for revival



From top: Alstom's loading dock and lift system; the Alstom plant at the former Combustion Engineering site; Unit 1 turbines at the Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in Hollywood, Ala.; and Stephane Cai talks about the company's nuclear turbine production.

ABOUT ALSTOM

- **Headquarters:** Paris
- **Locations:** 70 countries
- **Employees:** 76,500 worldwide
- **Sales:** \$24.2 billion (2009-10)
- **Net income:** \$1.48 billion (2009-10)

BUSINESSES

- **Power-generation infrastructure:** Company focuses on integrated power plants, hydropower, air-quality control systems and services for electric utilities. Three of every 10 nuclear plants worldwide use Alstom turbines.
- **Rail-support infrastructure:** Alstom is big in high-speed trains and in urban transport equipment.

HISTORY

- **1928:** Alstom born from merger of Thomson-Houston and Societe Alsacienne de Constructions Mecaniques. First factory in Belfort, France.
- **1956:** Alstom equips Chinon nuclear power plant in France with first steam turbine.
- **1969:** Compagnie Generale d'Electricite becomes majority shareholder.
- **1989:** GEC Alstom formed with merger of power and transport activities of Compagnie Generale d'Electricite and the United Kingdom's General Electric Co.
- **1998:** Group changes name to Alstom.
- **1999:** Alstom and ABB merge energy businesses, marking Alstom's entry into Chattanooga.
- **2000:** ABB Alstom becomes Alstom.
- **2007:** Chattanooga expansion begins.

Source: Alstom

STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN HENRY, TIM BARBER AND MATT FIELDS-JOINSON

Alstom brings jobs, energy as it powers up for nation's nuclear resurgence

 **Online:** See video of the Alstom plant. Read previous stories. Comment.

By **MIKE PARE**
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With completion of a new "flagship" Chattanooga factory, Alstom executives say they're ready to make the world's largest steam and gas turbines for power plants as the company prepares for America's nuclear revival.

"This is the latest and biggest," Stephane Cai, managing director of the turbine facility, said of the sprawl-

ing 350,000-square-foot factory built on the Tennessee River near downtown. "This is the flagship."

Already, the \$300 million plant on Riverfront Parkway has a two-year backlog of business retrofitting power plant components, Mr. Cai said.

On Thursday, the Paris-based company's top French leaders along with Tennessee and local officials will dedicate the plant, which Mr. Cai

said represents the largest worldwide industrial investment by Alstom in decades.

"It's equipped with the most advanced technology on the market," he said. "No Alstom factory has this luxury."

For Chattanooga leaders, Alstom's new plant is another brick in the wall of building job growth in the power generation sector.

The energy sector will be "a major contributor to our economy," said Tom Edd Wilson, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce's chief executive.

The company has hired about 200 people so far with plans to boost the work force to 350 by 2013. Alstom already employs 600 in the city at an adjacent plant that produces replacement components for coal-fired facilities.

"These are very high-quality jobs," Mr. Cai said of the new slots. The average salary for the jobs is about \$75,000, Alstom officials have said.

Work at the 75-acre site began almost three years ago. Alstom built its new plant

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