



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Decatur Riverport Benefits from Alabama Infrastructure Funding**

**DECATUR, Alabama (November 4, 2020)** – A grant awarded as part of the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program will help Decatur serve the agriculture, steel, and automotive markets.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) has awarded the grant to the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority. The grant will go toward building two warehouses targeted at the agriculture and steel markets and also positions Decatur to serve as a transportation node for the automotive sector in Alabama and Tennessee.

Watco Companies will contribute funds for the warehouses, located at Watco's Decatur Riverport terminal in the Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park. The project's total investment value is \$3.3 million and will include the hiring of additional Watco team members and the introduction of additional storage capacity in a space-constrained market. The end result will be a total of 70,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Alabama state Sen. Arthur Orr said, "Decatur is excited about the success of the public-private partnership between Watco and the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority at the Decatur Riverport. The construction of these warehouses and the operation at Decatur Riverport sets Morgan County apart in the competitive logistics arena, and we are thankful for their support."

Morgan County Port Authority Board President Harvey Pride Jr. applauded the efforts of Orr, Gov. Kay Ivey, and the Legislature. "The competitive grant program through ADECA has provided us a tremendous opportunity to enhance our existing facility with our partners at Watco," he said, "and it will definitely increase waterway traffic on the Tennessee River."

A strong feature of the port, located at Tennessee River mile marker 299, is that it is rail-served by the Norfolk Southern Railway. Rail and river access offer better options both economically and in achieving efficiency in moving products through Decatur.

Watco's Vice President of Sales K.R. McKenzie said, "This project is the result of hard work between two great partners that will position Decatur competitively as economic development projects move forward in north Alabama. We appreciate the partnership with the Morgan Country Economic Development Association and look forward to continuing to grow together."

### **About Watco**

Watco is a transportation service company that owns and operates a diverse network of short line railroads, terminals, ports, and mechanical shops across North America and Australia. With nearly 5,000 team members, Watco has been growing with customers since 1983. For more information, visit [watcocompanies.com](http://watcocompanies.com).