

For Immediate Release

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Steve Spencer elected president of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 17 -- After a successful 37-year career at Alabama Power, Steve R. Spencer has been elected president of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, EDPA's board of directors announced today.

Spencer will succeed Bill Taylor, who is retiring after serving as EDPA's president since 2009. Spencer will become EDPA president effective April 1.

"We are thrilled that Steve has agreed to take on this vitally important position," said EDPA Chairman Mark Crosswhite. "Steve has been actively involved in economic development in Alabama for decades, and he brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership skills to the organization."

Crosswhite thanked Taylor and praised his leadership of EDPA over the past six years. "Bill has been a force in economic development and in the automotive industry. We wish him the very best in retirement."

Prior to his role at EDPA, Taylor served as president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International in Vance. He was a key figure in the start-up of the Alabama plant, led production for five years and became president of the company in 1999. Taylor also was instrumental in establishing the Mercedes Production System, which is now a global standard for all Mercedes-Benz plants in achieving the highest levels of quality and efficiency.

“My time at EDPA has been a rewarding experience,” Taylor said. “I have had the opportunity to work with dedicated team members who strive every day to make Alabama a leader in business attraction and expansion.”

Spencer joins EDPA after serving as executive vice president of Alabama Power, where he was responsible for all operations that touch Alabama Power’s 1.4 million customers, including economic development. In prior roles at Alabama Power, he oversaw state and federal governmental relations, as well as regulatory affairs, community development, public relations and environmental affairs.

Spencer also has held leadership roles at Southern Nuclear Operating Company and at Southern Company in Atlanta, where he served as senior vice president of external affairs, with responsibility for Southern Company’s governmental affairs, environmental policy, and corporate communications and public relations activities.

A native of Birmingham, Spencer graduated from Woodlawn High School. He has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Auburn University and completed the Executive Finance and Accounting Program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife Lynne have two children.

“I am excited to be joining the extraordinary team at EDPA,” Spencer said. “They are making a difference every day in promoting Alabama as a great place to do business. I look forward to doing what I can to support them and to contribute to their success.”

About EDPA: EDPA is a private, non-profit organization supported by more than 60 corporate partners across the state. Its main focus is to help Alabama attract and retain industry by marketing and promoting the state as a business location and providing information analysis and fact-based proposals to companies and consultants looking for sites. EDPA also works closely with Alabama communities and companies interested in becoming more competitive in the national and global economy. To learn more, please visit <http://www.edpa.org/>.

