

# News Release



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Bridgestone Celebrates Groundbreaking of \$60 Million Expansion of Retread Tire Plant in Texas**

- **Bridgestone's \$60 million investment in Abilene, Texas plant will support the rapid growth of retread tire business.**
- **The expansion provides room for additional equipment and increases production capacity and days of operation up to seven days a week.**
- **Plant is adding 50,000 square feet to existing 200,000 square-foot facility.**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE (May 16, 2023)** — Bridgestone Americas (Bridgestone) celebrated the expansion of the company's Bridgestone Bandag, LLC manufacturing plant in Abilene, Texas with an official groundbreaking ceremony today. The 50,000-square-foot, \$60 million expansion of the Abilene plant is aimed at the growing demand for the company's tread rubber products, driven by the rapid growth of its retread business. The expansion includes an immediate increase in operational activity by running on six and seven-day production schedules, as well as the construction of new mixing operations at the facility. The mixing operations are expected to be completed and in operation by January 2025. The investment in the facility and the additional days of operations increase the plant's output by 16 percent, furthering Bridgestone's commitment to sustainable solutions.

"Today is a significant day for all of us at the Abilene Bandag plant and across Bridgestone Americas, as we break ground on this important expansion that will allow us to grow our production capabilities to meet the needs of our customers," said Billy Fralick, Plant Manager, Abilene Plant. "We'd like to thank the Abilene community for its support over the last 52 years. We're excited to begin this next chapter in our plant's history."

Fralick was joined at the event by several Bridgestone leaders, including Chris Daniel, Executive Director, Bandag Manufacturing, and Jason Roanhouse, Vice President, Bandag North America Operations. Also in attendance at the event were Weldon Hurt, Mayor of Abilene; Misty Mayo, President and CEO, Development Corporation of Abilene; and Shane Price, Abilene City Council Member.

“Today we celebrate the growth and commitment of this plant and this community, with new investment and a physical expansion driven by growing demand for our products and, just as fundamentally, by this team’s commitment to delivering innovation and superior quality for our customers here and around the world,” said Chris Daniel, Executive Director, Bandag Manufacturing, Bridgestone Americas. “Our company and our Abilene team have a vital role to play in the transformation of mobility brought forth by a desire of building greener retreads, while helping maximize fuel efficiency for fleets.”

Bandag is an industry leading supplier of retread tires for fleets. Retread tires not only provide fleets an economic benefit, but also are an environmentally responsible way to extend the life of tires in any fleet. Since 1957, Bandag has been responsible for keeping approximately 300 million tires out of the waste system, which helps reduce material emissions, water and energy use associated with the production of a new tire. The Bandag retreading process has also saved four billion gallons of oil since it began 50 years ago.

The Abilene plant expansion supports Bridgestone’s E8 Commitment that consists of 8 Bridgestone-like values starting with the letter “E” (Energy, Ecology, Efficiency, Extension, Economy, Emotion, Ease, and Empowerment) to realize a sustainable society. Expanding Bandag operations aligns with the company’s “Efficiency,” “Ecology” and “Energy” commitments.

The Bandag plant in Abilene, which celebrated 50 years of operations in 2021, continues to be a steady fixture in production of high-quality pre-cured truck tread, rubber cement and solvent packaging. Bridgestone’s investment will build upon the plant’s existing 200,000 square-foot blueprint and provide capacity needed for future production.

For more company news, visit [www.BridgestoneAmericas.com](http://www.BridgestoneAmericas.com).

**About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.:**

*Bridgestone Americas, Inc. is the U.S.-based subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, a global leader in tires and rubber, building on its expertise to provide solutions for safe and sustainable mobility. Headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., Bridgestone Americas employs more than 45,000 people across its worldwide operations. Bridgestone offers a diverse product portfolio of premium tires and advanced solutions backed by innovative technologies, improving the way people around the world move, live, work and play.*

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