



## **Study lists Georgetown among 10 top small markets for industrial site selection**

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By Dan Adkins Georgetown News-Graphic

A national site-selection consulting firm speaks highly of Georgetown as a small-market location for advanced manufacturing plants.

“Costs show well in Georgetown, totaling \$21.6 million per year,” said a report released by The Boyd Co. of Princeton, N.J.

“This shows the importance of synergy between the private sector, the academic sector and the public sector,” company president John Boyd said in an interview.

But he also indicated Georgetown was included in the nine-week study because of the amount of interest among aerospace and automotive firms regarding locating in the area.

“The glib answer is these are the communities our clients are asking us to look at,” Boyd said.

He said Georgetown’s proximity to the University of Kentucky — particularly its College of Engineering — as well as the now-under-construction Bluegrass Community & Technical College’s Advanced Manufacturing Center also figured into Georgetown’s standing.

Scott United Director Jack Conner said he was not surprised.

“I’d say this study is driven by Toyota and other companies that will be using the AMC,” Conner said.

“The independent Boyd analysis focuses on those key cost elements most pivotal within the corporate site selection process, including labor, real estate, power, taxes and others,” the report states.

“Overall costs in the analysis were scaled to a hypothetical 225,000-square-foot plant employing 325 workers,” it states.

Georgetown was measured against 39 other smaller-market cities, according to the report.

“Average operating costs in the study range from a high of \$29.8 million in Mountain View, California, to a low of \$20 million in Santa Teresa, New Mexico,” it states.

Georgetown ranked 10th on The Boyd Co.’s list of 40 small cities. It is the only Kentucky city on the list.

The report lists the following factors as prompting its evaluation of Georgetown:

- Weighted average hourly earnings, \$20.71
- Annual base payroll costs, \$12.815 million
- Fringe benefits, \$4.74 million
- Total annual labor costs, \$17.557 million
- Electric power costs, \$415,308
- Natural gas power costs, \$468,900
- Amortization costs, \$2.290 million
- Property and sales tax costs, \$836,256
- Travel costs, \$74,100.

Most of the 40 cities ranked in the report have operating costs ranges from \$26.9 million to \$22 million.

The top three small cities ranked in the report on a regional basis were Gardnerville, Nevada, in the West; Lafayette, Indiana, in the Central U.S.; and Pooler, Georgia, in the East.