

Yokogawa builds its own Factory of the Future in Georgia

By Mike Bacidore

Yokogawa Corporation of America is investing in the future of manufacturing through a major modernization of its Newnan, Georgia facility. As part of its broader Building Tomorrow initiative, the project will introduce advanced automation, digital-manufacturing technologies, and enhanced production capabilities to better serve North American process industries.

The modernization expands Yokogawa's ability to manufacture industrial field instrumentation closer to its customers while creating a more agile and resilient production environment. The upgraded facility is designed to improve responsiveness, strengthen regional supply capabilities, and support growing demand across a wide range of industries.

"The Newnan modernization project is a strategic investment to strengthen our ability to locally manufacture and deliver

critical field instrumentation closer to our customers," said Bhavin Patel, Executive Vice President, Operations & Manufacturing, Yokogawa Corporation of America during YNOW2026, A Yokogawa Users Conference & Exhibition in New Orleans. "Regional manufacturing improves supply chain resilience, reduces

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— **Bhavin Patel**, Executive Vice President, Operations & Manufacturing, Yokogawa Corporation of America

lead times, increases responsiveness, and enables us to support North American process industries with the speed, quality and reliability they require.”

According to Tom Quinlan, Chief Sales Officer and Chief Operating Officer-Products, Yokogawa Corporation of America, the facility will manufacture industrial sensing instruments for customers across North and Central America, including industries supporting AI infrastructure and other emerging areas of industrial growth.

"As manufacturers expand production capacity and invest in new facilities, reliable access to instrumentation becomes increasingly important," Quinlan said. "By producing these technologies closer to our customers and key suppliers, Yokogawa can respond more effectively to market demand and help customers avoid potential project bottlenecks."



Automation comes to the factory floor

The project gives Yokogawa an opportunity to apply the same advanced automation technologies it helps customers implement in their own operations.

Plans for the upgraded facility include autonomous machining centers, a highly automated warehouse, autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) for material transport, and digital manufacturing systems that provide real-time production visibility and enhanced product traceability.

“We’re creating a smart factory environment where autonomous machining centers produce components, automated warehouses manage inventory, and autonomous mobile robots deliver parts to production lines,” Patel added. “Together, these technologies will improve efficiency, quality, and responsiveness.”

Importantly, the technology is designed to complement, not replace, Yokogawa’s workforce. “The technologies will operate in tandem with Yokogawa’s skilled employees and lean manufacturing practices,” Patel explained. “This approach improves productivity and operational flexibility while maintaining the precision required to manufacture world-class instrumentation.”

Digitalization also creates a more adaptable manufacturing environment. By integrating automation, connected systems, and real-time analytics, Yokogawa is building a facility that can evolve alongside changing customer requirements and emerging instrumentation technologies.

“Through increased automation, digitalization of manufacturing processes, and real-time production analytics, we will be better positioned to support faster innovation cycles and evolving customer needs,” Patel said.

The facility will manufacture pressure, temperature, flow and analytical

instrumentation and is designed to accommodate future product developments, customization requirements, and changing production volumes.

Developing the next generation of manufacturing talent

Yokogawa’s investment extends beyond equipment and automation. The company also plans to establish a North American industrial sensing-instrumentation training program at the Newnan facility.

A new industrial process training unit (PTU) will train and develop future process technicians while providing hands-on learning opportunities for employees and customers alike.

For current employees, the initiative will introduce new manufacturing technologies, digital tools, and automation systems that support continuous professional development.

“Advanced manufacturing requires highly skilled talent, and this investment creates opportunities for employees to work with modern production technologies, automation systems, and digital tools,” Patel said. “We are building an environment that supports continuous learning, career growth, collaboration, and innovation, helping attract and retain the next generation of manufacturing and engineering professionals.”

Georgia’s established manufacturing ecosystem also contributed to Yokogawa’s decision to expand its Newnan operations. The region offers access to a strong workforce, an extensive supplier network, and key transportation infrastructure, including Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and major highway corridors.

By modernizing an existing facility, Yokogawa can build upon decades of operational expertise while leveraging the

southeast’s skilled industrial workforce and manufacturing-support network.

A vote of confidence in North American manufacturing

The Building Tomorrow project mentioned above reflects Yokogawa’s long-term confidence in North American manufacturing and the growing demand for advanced industrial automation and instrumentation.

“This investment reflects our confidence in the long-term growth of North American manufacturing and the increasing demand for advanced field instrumentation,” Patel added. “By expanding local production capabilities, we are demonstrating our commitment to customers, employees and the future of industrial automation in the region.”

While the Factory of the Future will feature autonomous machining, automated warehousing, AMRs and advanced production analytics, Yokogawa views the project as more than a technology upgrade. Equally important are the people who will operate, improve and innovate within the facility.

Ultimately, success will be measured by the value delivered to customers.

“Success means delivering higher levels of quality, responsiveness and operational excellence while strengthening our position as a leading manufacturer of field instrumentation,” explained Patel.

For customers, that translates into shorter lead times, greater flexibility, and continued confidence in the reliability and performance of Yokogawa products.

By combining advanced manufacturing technologies with a skilled workforce and a customer-focused strategy, Yokogawa’s transformation of its Newnan facility is creating a model for the future of industrial manufacturing in North America. ∞