



AISIN GROUP

Company Profile

Aisin World Corp. of America (AWA) is the North American sales center of the Aisin Group, a \$27 billion company headed by Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd. with corporate offices in Kariya City, Aichi, Japan.

Aisin Group is the world's fifth largest Tier One supplier of automotive components and systems such as brakes, transmissions, navigation systems, drivetrain, chassis, body, engine-related parts, electronics and intelligent transportation systems. The company is the largest transmission manufacturer in the world.

Aisin has 181 consolidated companies and employs 95,000 people. In the Americas, Aisin Group companies include 13,500 employees, 31 manufacturing, sales, and R & D centers, including Aisin Technical Center of America located at the North American Headquarters in Northville, Mich., and FT-Techno of America, the company's 950-acre test track and proving ground in Fowlerville, Mich. Currently, Aisin is ranked 5th in the world and 11th in North America in the *Automotive News* listing of largest Tier One suppliers.

Michigan has been the North American home to Aisin for more than 30 years. Since 1984, the company has expanded several times in key locations around the world, including Michigan where it has invested nearly \$250 million with strategically-located facilities in Northville Township, Plymouth, Ann Arbor and Fowlerville. Currently, Aisin employs more than 700 people in Michigan

You may not know it, but chances are that the car you drove to work today was well equipped with Aisin components and systems. From panoramic sunroofs and power back door systems, to engine water pumps and transmissions, Aisin designs, engineers and manufactures a diverse portfolio of pure, world class automotive solutions thanks to the highly-skilled and talented workforce found in Pure Michigan.

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FT Techno of America / Fowlerville Proving Ground

FT Techno of America (FTTA) was established in 2005 and is Aisin's third test track and proving ground in the world (the others are in Japan). FTTA is responsible for the development, maintenance, and operation of the Fowlerville Proving Ground and is operated as an independent vehicle evaluation company offering test tracks and testing services to the entire automotive industry, including Tier One suppliers, OEMs, and government agencies.

FTTA promotes research and development for the global automotive industry centralized in the state of Michigan. To that end, it works hand-in-hand with public institutions such as NHTSA and the EPA, universities, such as the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, and a number of automotive suppliers and manufacturers. FTTA leverages the talent of locally trained and educated engineers to develop cutting edge safety systems deployed throughout the world.

Company/Facility data:

- 10-year anniversary October, 2015
- Area: 950 acres
- Investment: \$80-\$100 million
- Employees as of 2015: 25. Mostly engineering and/or degreed, etc.
- Test Tracks/Facilities :
 - 4,500 Ft. 4-lane Straightaway (Road A)
 - Low and middle friction ceramic tile surfaces (Road B)
 - Ice/Snow
 - 20-acre Vehicle Dynamics Area (Road C)
 - 3-mile Oval Track (Road D)
 - Brake Hills (15%, 20%, 30%)
 - Special Surface and Ride Comfort Roads
 - Noise, Vibration, and Harshness (NVH) Roads
 - Rough Road Durability Track
 - Off-road track
 - 2 qty. 6,000 Sq. Ft. fully equipped garages
 - 2 qty. 3,000 Sq. Ft. fully equipped garages
 - Machine shop
 - Office Space

Annual Community Activities:

- Livingston County Sherriff Dept. driver training
- Livingston County EMS driver training certification
- Teen impaired/distracted driving initiative
- High school advanced and defensive driver training
- Sponsor of MSU Formula SAE (free track time)
- Sponsor of U of M Formula SAE (free track time)
- Education partnership with Fowlerville High School

Most of FTTA's recent work has been related to the testing and development of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), a technology that has been popular in the automotive media lately. Examples of ADAS include blind spot detection, adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency braking, pedestrian detection and warning systems, and lane departure warning.

FTTA has become one of the best facilities exploring this practical technology in the field. Of particular interest might be its involvement in the development of future Vehicle to Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle to Infrastructure (V2I) systems. Since these systems have to be able to communicate with each other regardless of the vehicle manufacturer, FTTA's neutral position has allowed it to serve as "common ground" for all the involved OEMs.

FTTA believes that ADAS testing/development will be a major part of the automotive R & D picture for at least the next 20 years. This, combined with its neutral position and mission to build a safer and more environmentally responsible vehicle orientated society, has led to a focus on experience and resources in this area.

Hi-tech in a Livingston County cornfield: Aisin's Fowlerville Proving Ground.

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