



Mr. James Blair is an International Project Manager in the Global Commerce Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the state agency that assists companies in establishing or expanding a business presence in Georgia. Mr. Blair works with Canadian, European, Latin American and other international executives whose companies require a business presence in the USA. In this role, Mr. Blair coordinates the full range of business location services (facility or site selection, community recommendations, introduction to professional service providers, introduction to local authorities, business incentives, etc.) in collaboration with other Georgia economic development partners.

Mr. Blair was Director of Georgia's European Office in Brussels before returning to Georgia in 2005. For 18 years, Mr. Blair lead Georgia's economic development efforts in attracting European corporate investment to Georgia, as well as supporting existing European investors in their Georgia expansion plans. Mr. Blair has represented Georgia as a guest speaker at a number of prestigious investment conferences organized by "Capital" magazine in Germany, KBC Bank in Belgium, the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Germany, The Flemish Trade and Investment Office, the Paris Chamber of Commerce and the Longueuil Development agency in Montreal.

In over 20 years of working in the field of economic development, Mr. Blair has helped locate approximately 125 European and other international projects in Georgia whose subsidiaries today employ some 6,500 persons. These include large companies like JCB, Porsche, UCB, Randstad and Saint Gobain, as well as smaller companies like Balta Carpets, Hansgrohe, Knapp Logistics, Perkins Engines and WIKA Instruments.

Mr. Blair is President of the French- American Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Board of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce; he serves on the Advisory Board of the "Transatlantic Studies Program" of the Georgia university system and is a member of the Georgia Economic Development Association.

Mr. Blair has an international MBA from the University of South Carolina and speaks German, Dutch and French.