As Alabama's third largest public company, and the largest landholder in Madison County, Intergraph Corporation is less well known than perhaps it should be. Specializing in computer graphics systems, particularly in computer-aided design programs, Intergraph produces products that have become ubiquitous throughout our industry and in many other fields.

The diverse uses of Intergraph products quickly become clear. Every single one of the Fortune Top 10 companies owns Intergraph equipment. Rand McNally maps are created on Intergraph systems. Rolls Royce designed its Bentley line of automobiles with Intergraph computers. The publishers of TV Guide rely on Intergraph. Many homebuilders turn to Intergraph products for design work. And of course Intergraph uses Intergraph equipment, for example in carrying out much of the design work on new equipment at its manufacturing works in Huntsville.

In 1985, James W. Meadlock, one of the founders of the company, was the recipient of the Congressional High Technology Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and technology. The Congressional announcement saluted Intergraph, noting that the firm "has developed interactive computer graphic tools which solve real-world problems whose solutions are shared by design engineering and mapping organizations around the globe." The World Computer Graphics Association has also praised Intergraph, saying the company "has given the engineering community, and users in general, outstanding hardware and software to improve the quality of engineering and, in turn, the quality and usefulness of engineering products."

Intergraph’s Huntsville/Madison complex comprises thirty-one buildings and sprawls across 1.76 million square feet. In just over two decades, from its founding in 1969, the company has grown to be the second largest computer manufacturer in the Southeast. It is one of the top two suppliers of computer-aided design equipment in the United States. Intergraph employs more than nine thousand workers in its operations in forty-one countries. The company’s latest venture is the opening of offices in eastern Germany, where it plans to establish a base from which to expand into other Eastern European countries.

Intergraph Corporation is justly proud of its record of hardware and software innovation and service. Each week some three hundred people come to Huntsville to learn to operate Intergraph systems and software or to consider purchasing Intergraph computing equipment. Because Intergraph works from a productivity-enhancing standpoint, its products and market are, it affirms, nearly recession-proof. With much of its profit being returned to the company for research and development, the future looks bright for this unique resident of Alabama’s Silicon Valley.