

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## What is CONNEX™ Alabama?

CONNEX™ Alabama is an online SaaS platform that connects all Alabama manufacturers and suppliers into a single searchable solution. It allows manufacturers, suppliers, and buyers to quickly post and respond to needs, visualize supply chain risk, search for qualified manufacturers, and discover new business opportunities.

## Who Created CONNEX™ Alabama?

CONNEX™ Alabama is part of the national supply chain platform called CONNEX Marketplace, which was developed by i5 Services, a U.S. manufacturing solutions company. CONNEX™ Alabama is licensed by [Alabama Technology Network](#), which is providing free platform access for all Alabama manufacturers.

## Why Should I Join CONNEX™ Alabama? What's in it For Me?

If you're an Alabama manufacturer, there are many reasons why you should join and participate in CONNEX™ Alabama. Here are a few of the main reasons:

- Access to a Detailed Directory of all U.S. Manufacturers and Suppliers: This in-depth directory helps you find qualified domestic suppliers with specific products, services, and manufacturing capabilities you need. You can also use it to find new customers whose needs fit your capabilities.
- Network, Interact & Connect: The powerful interactive networking tools in CONNEX let you find and be found across the local and national supply chain. You can:
  - Connect with buyers, primes, OEMs, and other qualified manufacturers who have what you need, or who need what you have.
  - Participate in OEM purchasing events, matchmaking sessions, and industry forums designed to help grow your domestic supplier base.
  - Post and respond to RFPs, RFQs and RFIs

- Publish needs or surplus notifications.
- Advertising & Promotion: Every day, large buyers are looking for manufacturers just like you. Creating and maintaining your manufacturing profile allows others to easily find you based on your manufacturing capabilities.

## How Can CONNEX Help me Find New Business Opportunities?

CONNEX makes it super easy to find new contract opportunities. Within the platform, you can view RFPs, RFQs, RFIs and other needs posted from buyers. In addition, based on your profile, you can be notified of all new opportunities that you are uniquely qualified for and have a good chance of being considered for. Many times, these are opportunities that you wouldn't have otherwise known about however CONNEX finds them for you based on your capabilities, equipment, certifications and more.

## How is CONNEX Different From Other Similar Platforms?

There are many unique features of CONNEX that make it different from other platforms:

- Low Cost: CONNEX™ Alabama is FREE for all Alabama manufacturers to use within the state! In addition, it's only \$500/Yr per company location to access the entire U.S. database (with unlimited user licenses per location!)
- More than Just Another Bid-Board: While many other platforms simply offer re-post government bid listings, CONNEX focuses on building long-term relationships between suppliers & buyers by only allowing buyers to directly post their needs on the platform and only suppliers to directly respond. Within a few clicks, a direct relationship is formed.
- Partnerships: CONNEX was built in partnership with over 100 manufacturing organizations across the country, including the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

## Can CONNEX Help Me See My Supply Chain and Identify Risks?

Yes! With CONNEX, it's never been easier to visually see your entire supply chain. You can view your supply chain in various ways, identify supply chain risks and see suggested alternate suppliers to mitigate that risk. This information remains confidential to your organization.

## Can CONNEX Help Me Find Alabama suppliers?

Yes! You can use CONNEX™ Alabama to search thousands of Alabama manufacturers and quickly find the perfect supplier for your needs. You can also easily expand your search nationally and search for suppliers across the U.S. (see "How Can I Upgrade?")

## What Does it Cost to Access CONNEX™ Alabama?

Through the sponsorship of [Alabama Technology Network](#), the platform is FREE for all Alabama manufacturers and suppliers! After that, it's only \$500/Yr per company location to access the entire U.S. database (with unlimited user licenses per location!)

## How Secure is My Data?

Data security is always a top priority! Your data is encrypted both at rest and in transit. No one outside of your organization can see your confidential information without your express permission. In addition, the platform is constantly being updated to meet the latest cybersecurity standards.

## Can Someone Help Me Setup & Optimize My Profile?

Yes, with your permission [Alabama Technology Network](#) can help and support you to ensure that you get the most out of the platform by helping you:

- Build, optimize, and maintain your profile.
- Create & upload your capability statements.
- Post and respond to exchange center opportunities.
- Onboard internal users and set user permissions.
- And more!

To receive this assistance, reach out to us and we'll explain how you can grant us access to your profile. After helping you, that access can be removed from your profile, as needed.

## Who Can Use CONNEX?

Right now, the platform is only open to large and small manufacturers who participate as buyers or suppliers in the manufacturing supply chain. The platform is not open to distributors or service providers at this time.

## How Will CONNEX Help me Strengthen my Supply Chain?

You can find alternative suppliers, view your supply chain, highlight single supplier and financial risks within your supply chain, see companies on government watchlists, and more. You can also find suppliers by searching the thousands of state manufacturers and using filters to find companies with products and services that match your specific needs. For national supply chain connectivity, manufacturers can upgrade to CONNEX™ Marketplace through CONNEX™ Alabama.

## How Do I Upgrade my Free Subscription to Access the Entire National Database?

CONNEX™ Alabama is a free state-only version of the national "CONNEX Marketplace" platform. Although it's free, users are limited to only seeing and interacting with other (State) manufacturers and suppliers. CONNEX (State) users cannot see profiles or posted opportunities in any other state.

Upgrading to full national access to CONNEX Marketplace is easy and inexpensive. It's only \$500/Yr per company location with unlimited user licenses per location!

Upgrading to national access allows users to view, search, interact, and respond to manufacturing opportunities across the entire U.S. rather than just (State).

To upgrade your account, you must first create a CONNEX™ Alabama account (see below). After that, go to your account and click on "My Subscriptions". Select to upgrade your account to CONNEX Marketplace and enter your payment information or promo code. Membership can be canceled at any time.

## How do I request a CONNEX™ Alabama account?

- Visit [www.atn.org/connex-alabama](http://www.atn.org/connex-alabama)
- Click the "Request an Account" button and fill out the necessary information.
- Watch for a validation email and click on the link.
- Login and complete the wizard to create your company profile.

After that, we will approve your account on our end and you can begin using the system. It's that simple!

## Who Do I Contact With Questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please contact us at: [connexalabama@atn.org](mailto:connexalabama@atn.org).