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Business brief

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Alabama No. 45 in patent survey:

Alabama ranked No. 45 among the states last year in the number of international patent applications, a lower ranking than in 1998, a study shows.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation said industries and universities in the state applied for 8.1 patents for every 100,000 workers in 2006. Alabama was 43rd in 1998 with a 5.1 rate, the foundation said.

The number of patent applications from Alabama, however, rose to 159 last year from 98 in 1998.

Delaware tops the list of states measured by applications with an 82.1 rate while South Dakota's 1.3 rate anchors the bottom. The national average was 25.1.

"In a global economy in which growth is driven by innovation, global patent applications are just one of many important measures of progress and potential," said Vivek Wadhwa, lead researcher on the study. Charles R. McCauley

Ford reviews bids for Jag, Land Rover:

LONDON - Ford Motor Co.'s top executives are evaluating six bids received for its Jaguar and Land Rover units, Dow Jones Newswires reported.

The company expects to whittle the bids to one or two within the next week or so, following detailed talks which Dow Jones said.

Tata Motors Ltd., India's largest auto maker, was one of those putting in a second-round bid.

Ford is selling the brands to concentrate on growing its core business in the U.S. market.