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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue dons a red hat during the announcement that technology company Red Hat will expand in North Carolina.

Red Hat to create 540 jobs in N.C.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 10 that Red Hat, a North Carolina-based software developer and the world's leading provider of open source software solutions to businesses, government and other enterprises, will maintain and expand its headquarters in Wake County.

"Nothing makes me happier than to announce that Red Hat is staying in North Carolina -- except, perhaps, to say they are also adding 540 new jobs," said Perdue. "Red Hat is a homegrown, high-tech, global brand and we fought hard to keep them here. That's because economic development -- and growing jobs now -- isn't just about wooing outside companies. It's about taking care of the ones we already have, and encouraging them to put down their roots even deeper."

Red Hat is currently headquartered in Raleigh with satellite offices worldwide. The company develops and provides operating system platforms along with middleware, virtualization and cloud computing solutions offering customers a long-term plan for building infrastructures leveraging open source technologies. The company currently employs more

Duke Energy and Progress Energy to Merge

Duke Energy and Progress Energy, Inc. announced Jan. 10 that both companies' boards of directors have unanimously approved a definitive merger agreement to combine the two companies in a stock-for-stock transaction. The combined company, to be called Duke Energy, will be the country's largest utility, with:

- Approximately \$65 billion in enterprise value and \$37 billion in market capitalization
- The country's largest regulated customer base, providing service to approximately 7.1 million electric customers in six regulated service territories: North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio
- Approximately 57 gigawatts of domestic generating capacity from a diversified mix of coal, nuclear, natural gas, oil and renewable resources
- The largest regulated nuclear fleet in the country

"Our industry is entering a building phase where we must invest in an array of new technologies to reduce our environmental footprints and become more efficient," said Jim Rogers, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Duke Energy. "By merging our companies, we can do that more economically for our customers, improve shareholder value and continue to grow. [Read more.](#)

[Duke Energy buying Progress Energy in \\$13.7 billion deal](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Jan. 10)

N.C. businesses secure 52 new state contracts in 2010

Thanks to Governor Bev Perdue's North Carolina Business Preference program, in 2010 North Carolina companies received 52 new state contracts worth nearly \$2.7 million. That means those tax dollars were kept in-state, invested in North Carolina businesses, instead of being spent with out-of-state

than 690 people in North Carolina. [Read more](#). [See video and photos from the event](#) on the governor's blog.

[Red Hat will keep its offices in Wake](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Jan. 11)



Governor Bev Perdue shakes hands with Red Hat CEO Jim Whitehurst as N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco looks on.

Crisco says arts are vital to N.C. business

The arts and education are important in North Carolina, and are also vital to attracting other industries, according to N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco. Crisco spoke Jan. 6 at the "State of Arts & Culture in Wake County" breakfast program at the N.C. Museum of Art. His message was that businesses need to be creative, and need to attract creative people, to survive. Creative people want to live and work in areas with a high quality of life and many cultural offerings. Promoting the arts is a smart way to help people and businesses in our state continue to thrive.

[Keith Crisco: The arts and arts education are vital to N.C. jobs](#) (*The Independent Weekly*, Jan. 6)

N.C. ranks No. 3 for in-migration

According to the [2010 United Van Lines Migration Study](#), North Carolina's in-migration rank jumped from No. 10 in the nation in 2009 to No. 3 last year.

Carl Walter, vice president of United Van Lines, the nation's largest household goods mover, released the results of the company's 34th annual "migration" study last week. This study tracks what states the customers are leaving and the most popular destinations over a 12-month period.

In 2010, the study looked at 146,837 interstate household moves between the 48 contiguous states and Washington, D.C. It categorizes the states as "high inbound" (55 percent or more of the relocations moving into a state), "high outbound" (55 percent or more moves going out of a state) or "balanced."

While the District of Columbia was the top destination in the United States for the third consecutive year with a score of 64.3 percent, North Carolina was the only other mid-Atlantic state to see high inbound traffic with a rate of 57.8 percent. [Read more](#).

companies.

"Why spend our tax dollars outside the state when there are numerous homegrown companies right here that can offer us the same products at competitive prices?" said Perdue. "Especially right now, as we pull out of this global economic recession, it's critical to do everything we can to support businesses and keep people on the payrolls across the state."

As part of her effort to set government straight and grow jobs, Perdue signed Executive Order 50, which created the North Carolina Business Preference Program, a price-matching option for North Carolina businesses bidding on state contracts. Under the program, if a North Carolina-based business is not the low bidder on a state contract, but submits a bid within 5 percent or \$10,000 of the lowest bid, whichever is less, the North Carolina business will receive the opportunity to match the out-of-state bidder's price and secure the contract. [Read more](#).

Infrastructure helping N.C.'s technology corridor grow

Electrical infrastructure and readily available water resources are two reasons why technology companies are finding North Carolina so appealing, according to an article in the latest edition of *Capitol Ideas*. The article takes a look at how four states, North Carolina, Vermont, North Dakota and Montana, are dealing with recession. In particular, the article cites Western North Carolina's economic evolution from furniture manufacturing to technology data centers. Facebook, Apple, Google and IBM have all announced plans to locate data centers in the area.

"This shows that the hard work of the past year has paid off -- [including] our investments in education to build the work force of tomorrow, policies that create a more business-friendly climate, and our aggressive recruiting," Governor Bev. Perdue said in a press release.

[A tale of 4 states](#) (*Capitol Ideas*, January/February)

Micro-Nano Systems Conference coming to Greensboro

The Commercialization of Micro-Nano Systems Conference will take place in Greensboro Aug. 28-31.

[The N.C. Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology](#) recruited the conference to North Carolina, and Research Triangle Institute is a major sponsor.

Uwharrie panel holds first meeting

The Uwharrie Regional Resources Commission held its first meeting Jan. 6 at the Stanly County Airport near Albemarle. During the meeting, Stanly County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tony Dennis was elected to be chairman of the URRC. Max Walser, former chairman of the Davidson County Board of Commissioners, was elected vice chairman, and Central Piedmont LandTrust Executive Director Jason Walser was elected secretary and treasurer. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco is also a member of the URRC.

[Uwharrie panel discusses potential resources at first meeting](#) (*The Salisbury Post*, Jan. 7)

Productions making the most of new film incentive

North Carolina's new 25 percent film incentive went into effect Jan. 1 -- and several productions are already making the most of it and the state's talented crew base.

In Wilmington, New Line Cinema's blockbuster "Journey to the Center of the Earth 2: The Mysterious Island" and a yet-to-be-named Comedy Central pilot will join the CW Network's long-standing television drama "One Tree Hill" in filming this month. In addition, Entertainment Partners, a leading provider of production management solutions, is finalizing plans to open an office in Wilmington.

January will also see cameras rolling in Charlotte as it serves as the background for the pilot of "Homeland," a series shooting for Showtime which will star Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin. In addition, the N.C. Film Office has received notice that Rick Schroder will be producing a reality series, "Starting Strong," for the Army in and around Fort Bragg, which will film in March. Finally, "The Shunning," a made-for-TV movie which will air on the Hallmark Channel, is wrapping up its post-production in the state after filming in the Piedmont Triad region this past November. [Learn more](#) about filming in North Carolina.

Charlotte Regional Partnership to present Jerry Awards

[Charlotte Regional Partnership](#) has announced that it will present the 2011 Jerry Awards to Duke Energy President Jim Rogers and Carolinas HealthCare System. The Jerry Award is named in honor of Carolina Panthers owner and founder Jerry Richardson and Charlotte Douglas International Airport Aviation Director Jerry Orr. The awards will be presented on May 24.

Halifax County receives Commerce grant

Halifax County has been approved for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$929,141 to assist in providing public sewer service for an expansion at the Reser's Fine Foods food processing plant. The company has pledged to create 135 new full time jobs and invest more than \$62 million dollars as a result of the grant.

North Carolina is a hotbed of small technology activity, with 35 nanotech university research centers, more than 80 nanobiotech and nanotechnology companies, and more. No other region in the world is such a highly concentrated hub of micro-nano action.

Also, N.C. COIN will host the third Executive Roundtable Event on Commercializing NanoBio tools, Jan. 18 at the Research Triangle Park Foundation Building. This event series offers executives and entrepreneurs of North Carolina-based nanobiotechnology companies and others involved in this field an opportunity to discuss key business issues and build relationships. The focus of this roundtable will be unique issues of commercializing nanobiotech analytical tools with presentations by the nanotools companies Izon Science, Nanolnk and NanoSight.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - 10, 2011

New projects assigned:	8
Projects announced:	2
Jobs created:	71
Capital invested:	\$27M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	18
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	416

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [N.C. lawmakers won't shun public](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Jan. 10)
- [Editorial: Science center holds promise](#) (*The Daily Reflector* - Greenville, Jan. 10)
- [North Carolina: Growing a diverse economy](#) (*Business Xpansion Journal*, January 2010)

Hudson River "miracle" plane to go on display in Charlotte

US Airways Flight 1549, the plane that made the "miracle" landing on New York's Hudson River in 2009, is about to make its long-overdue arrival in Charlotte. Officials with the Carolinas Aviation Museum say they've all but finalized an agreement that would put the Airbus A320 on permanent display as a tourist attraction.

Museum President Shawn Dorch and others expect it to draw thousands of visitors to the museum, located just off Airport Drive. It would be a featured addition to a collection that includes a Piedmont Airlines DC-3 as well as fighter planes.

"It would be a great addition to the tourism landscape for the Charlotte region," said Tim Newman, chief executive of the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. "It has the potential to be a big tourism draw."

['Miracle' plane will finally arrive in Charlotte - to stay](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 5)

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