

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



(L-R) WRAL's David Crabtree and Secretary Copeland. The Secretary sat for a live interview on January 10.

Toyota-Mazda Project Confirms Tight Teamwork of State and Local Leaders

The disappointing news that Toyota-Mazda selected Alabama for its new vehicle assembly plant last week hasn't dampened the enthusiasm and determination of state and local leaders to recruit major manufacturers to North Carolina. In fact, leaders are pointing to the teamwork and close collaboration seen during the recruitment process for 'Project New World' as evidence that the state has all the pieces in place to win such a large project in the future.

"North Carolina delivered a very attractive offer for the Toyota-Mazda plant and we couldn't have done so without the strong collaborative efforts of partners from across the state," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "I'm proud of this wrap around strategy, which brings together local officials, regional groups and multiple state agencies and groups to put North Carolina's best foot forward. We know that company officials were impressed with this display of teamwork and I'm confident the collaborative efforts to prepare attractive industrial sites, along with North Carolina's talented workers and their can-do spirit will result in long-term growth for our state."

Legislative leaders also commented on the teamwork displayed during the recruitment.

"It is bitterly disappointing to be the runner-up for the new Toyota-Mazda facility, but I want to sincerely thank Governor



North Carolina companies offering security products were showcased in the state's booth at Milipol 2017.

State's Export Team Promotes North Carolina's Security Products in France

Milipol 2017, a leading event for homeland security organized by the French Ministry of Interior, brought security professionals from around the world to Paris last November. North Carolina companies were showcased during the event, thanks to the latest export-support program organized by the state's international trade team.

Milipol is a premier security event in Europe. The trade show drew 29,939 visitors from 151 countries. Milipol covered a wide range of new products in the field of forensics, video surveillance equipment, biometric identification, access control, secure communications, monitoring devices, emergency management, rapid response and law enforcement. The event included partnerships with the French National Police and Gendarmerie, Civil Defence Service, French Customs, City Police, and Interpol.

The International Trade Division team at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) promoted the products of several North Carolina companies at the show. Thanks to their participation, these companies were able to better understand the business environment and huge market

Roy Cooper and Secretary Tony Copeland for their tireless efforts to recruit the plant to North Carolina," said **Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate**. "They worked closely and transparently with the legislature on this project and did everything that could be done to close the deal."

"Our brightest opportunities lie ahead as we continue to strengthen our state's financial well-being and reform our business climate to poise North Carolina for long-term success as a national leader in economic competitiveness," said **Tim Moore, Speaker of the North Carolina House**.

Local officials also remain optimistic.

"The good news is that over the past for five months the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite has been on the world stage," said **Brent Christensen, President and CEO of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce**. "We want to cast a wide net and not pigeonhole this site as being for one type of industry because, quite frankly, it would be good for any number of industries. That's the beauty of it."



Raleigh Named One of the Nation's Best Performing Cities

The Milken Institute, an independent economic think tank based in Santa Monica, California, released its annual *Best Performing Cities Index: Where America's Jobs are Created and Sustained* on January 10.

Two cities in North Carolina reached the top 15 list of Best-Performing Cities for 2017, including the No. 2 best-performing large city for the year, Raleigh.

Charlotte ranked No. 13 on the highly-respected list.

The Raleigh Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) climbed four spots from last year's rankings. The report cites the region's strong job and wage growth and notes that in the twelve months ending in August 2017, the rate at which new positions were created in Raleigh was 2 percent higher than the U.S. average.

The [entire report can be downloaded from the Milken Institute's website](#).

opportunities in Europe.

Tactical Support Equipment of Fayetteville, Aegis Power Systems of Murphy, Saliient Sciences of Cary, and Tri-Tech Forensics of Leland participated in the North Carolina booth at the trade show and reported strong lead generation and results.

EDPNC's Global Operations Director Kuldip Wasson led coordination of the event to facilitate North Carolina exports and to assist the companies to form alliances and partnerships with foreign buyers in the security sector.

On Our Radar

- [Report: Industry Funding of University Research: Which States Lead? \(Note: N.C. Ranks No.1\)](#)

N.C. in the News

- [North Carolina Manufacturing Hub Gets Into Stadium Business](#) (*Bloomberg* - January 16)
- [NC offered \\$1.5 billion. Toyota-Mazda said no thanks](#) (*News & Observer* - January 10)
- [The Carolinas rank among top 10 for people moving into states, says U-Haul](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - January 8)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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