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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Duke Energy Group Executive and Chief Generation Officer Dhiaa Jamil, UNC-Charlotte Chancellor Phil Dubois, Siemens Energy Director of Operations Mark Pringle, EPIC Director and SPX Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UNC-Charlotte Steve Patterson, Duke Energy President, Chairman, and CEO Jim Rogers, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.

10 honored at Energy Leadership Awards

The Charlotte Business Journal and the Charlotte Regional Partnership held their inaugural Energy leadership Awards at the Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte Jan. 21. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was one of the featured speakers at the event.

The 10 awardees are: Talking Points LLC Principal Scott Carlberg; CoaLogix President and CEO Bill McMahon; The Shaw Power Group Senior VP Jeff Merrifield; O2 Energies Inc. Managing Director Joel Olsen; Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) Director and UNC-Charlotte College of Engineering SPX Distinguished Professor Steve Patterson; Siemens Energy Director of Operations Mark Pringle Central Piedmont Community College Director of Workforce Development Keith Ratliff; Duke Energy Chairman, President and CEO Jim Rogers; Piedmont Natural Gas President, Chairman and CEO Tom Skains; Abundant Power Group Founder and President Shannon Smith. [Read more.](#)

Also on Jan. 21, two Charlotte energy companies, Duke Energy and Siemens Energy, announced \$8.8 million in support for the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center at UNC-Charlotte. Duke Energy will provide approximately \$4.5



N.C. Department of Commerce Director of the Green Economy Larry Shirley speaks during the announcement at Acme-McCrary

Energy Office helps support major solar thermal energy project

On Jan. 18, Acme-McCrary Corp. in Asheboro, a century-old national leader in the manufacture of legwear and other garments, announced the development of one of the nation's largest solar thermal energy projects. The project is supported in part by a grant from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Energy Office under its Renewable Energy Grant program, funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

North Carolina's U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, along with the N.C. Department of Commerce's Director of the Green Economy Larry Shirley, were on hand in Asheboro for the dedication of the solar energy project.

The system features 200 U.S.-made solar panels that will generate 10,000 gallons of hot water a day for the company's hosiery and seamless apparel dyeing processes. It was developed in partnership with Asheville-based FLS Energy. In a news release, FLS Energy said it is selling the thermal energy to Acme-McCrary at a price below the cost of hot water produced by fossil fuels and will save the company more than \$20,000 a year in energy costs as well as an estimated 240,000 pounds cut in carbon emissions from the factory.

"The installation of these next-generation solar panels represents a partnership between our state's textile sector and emerging clean-energy sector," said Hagan. "In North Carolina, we are creating an innovative path forward to create jobs and compete in today's global economy. As a state senator, I helped

million and Siemens Energy will provide approximately \$4.3 million in support of the center. Both companies will do this over several years as the EPIC program develops.

Critical to training new engineers and conducting research in energy technologies, EPIC will serve the diverse needs of existing and new energy companies. [Read more.](#)

[Duke, Siemens To Provide \\$8.8M For UNCC Energy Center](#) (WSOC-TV - Charlotte, Jan. 21)



The solar power array at the N.C. Global TransPark

Global TransPark installs solar power system

Eastern North Carolina has diversified its electricity sources with the help of green energy technology installed at the N.C. Global TransPark. Greenfield Power, a Charlotte-based solar firm, completed a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at GTP and Progress Energy Carolinas now uses that power output to serve its customers. This is the first major solar PV installation in the Kinston area.

The ribbon-cutting at GTP on Jan. 24 included N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll; N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Gene Conti; Global TransPark Executive Director Darlene Waddell; Greenfield Power President Tom Kepper; and Progress Energymarks Region Vice President Bob McCall. The Raleigh-based utility is using electricity made by a system installed by a Charlotte-based solar firm at the GTP.

"Supporting North Carolina businesses is critically important as we make purchasing choices," said Carroll. "This project captures the full solar energy value chain from project engineering to the installation of panels and the harvest of electricity. This cooperative initiative between private companies and public officials builds solar energy's momentum in North Carolina."

The 250-kilowatt PV array is designed to produce approximately 325,000 kilowatt-hours per year. This annual output will offset more than 100 percent of the electricity used in the Spirit AeroSystems Composite Center of Excellence, the GTP's onsite education and training facility.

"The production and use of clean energy in business operations is becoming an industry standard. By partnering with Greenfield Power and Progress Energy on this solar photovoltaic system, we are demonstrating to the business community that we are aware of and able to respond to its

make North Carolina the first and only state in the Southeast to require utilities to utilize renewable energy, and this exciting project is a result of that policy."



(Left-right) Rainey Qualley, daughter of actress Andie MacDowell and leader of the band Rainsford, N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett and Andie MacDowell

Film Office holds reception at Sundance

The N.C. Film Office held a reception Jan. 22 for more than 300 hundred producers, directors, studio executives, financiers and media at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Hosted by the N.C. Film Office in association with Moving Pictures Magazine, the reception allowed festival goers to get out of the cold and into North Carolina hospitality. The reception featured wines from several North Carolina wineries (Biltmore, Grove Winery and Vineyards, McRitchie Winery and Ciderworks, and Raffaldini Vineyards).

The invitation-only event celebrated the new N.C. Film Incentive, which went into effect Jan 1, and the North Carolina film "to.get.her," which was an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival. The film had its world premiere the evening prior to a sold out crowd. The party went well into the evening with music from [Rainsford Qualley](#) whose song "Peach in My Pocket" was featured in the film.

Entrepreneurs find venture capital in N.C.

Companies seeking venture funding need look no further than North Carolina. According to data compiled by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the National Venture Capital Association, the Tar Heel State's venture investing jump of 27 percent outpaced the national trend. Not only did the number of investments increase, but they represented a broad spectrum of company categories, ranging from startups to expansions.

In 2010, North Carolina saw 57 transactions that totaled more than \$456 million. While venture investing was greatest statewide in the biotech industry, the data showed a significant

needs," said Waddell.

The GTP is a 2,500 acre, multi-modal industrial park offering access to air, rail, highways, and North Carolina's two international ports. The GTP is in Lenoir County, located near several major military installations, and designed to attract aerospace and logistics-related companies and bring increased economic opportunities to the state.

The array is unique to North Carolina state-run facilities. "Greenfield Power believes this solar module installation is a model for facilities considering solar energy and also a model of teamwork between utilities, entrepreneurs and the state government," said Kepper. This project brought construction jobs to North Carolina in addition to significant equipment purchases.



(Left-right) Jay Raffaldini, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Maureen Raffaldini and Barbara Raffaldini at the ribbon-cutting (Photo by Monty and Brenda Combs)

Raffaldini Vineyards celebrates 10th anniversary

Raffaldini Vineyards celebrated its tenth anniversary Jan. 21 with a ribbon cutting, reception and special wine release. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll was the guest of honor at the reception.

At the celebration, Raffaldini Vineyards unveiled its first 1.5 liter magnum of red wine, Tutto è Possibile – Anything is Possible, produced with varietals harvested over the past years and blended together to harmoniously express the full potential of the Yadkin Valley and Swan Creek appellations. The wine is limited to 450 magnums which have been individually numbered and then signed by the winemaker, vineyard manager and Jay Raffaldini on behalf of La Famiglia Raffaldini.

"We are grateful for the local communities who have supported us throughout the years and who have helped Raffaldini Vineyards and the North Carolina wine industry ascend to the world stage," said owner and managing member Jay Raffaldini. [Read more.](#)

Video game industry is thriving in N.C.

The Research Triangle area has become one of the premier locations for video game developers. UNC-TV recently featured the sector in a video. [Learn more.](#)

rebound in the software sector.

"Investment activity dropped dramatically at the end of 2008 and after two long years, we expected to see an increase in investment in 2010," Jimmy Rosen of Intersouth Partners in Durham told Local Tech Wire. "We've certainly seen this in our portfolio and in the many great new companies starting and getting funded. I think it signals continued interest in N.C. entrepreneurs. What's really encouraging is that North Carolina so dramatically outpaced the rest of the country in its recovery back to pre-recession investment levels." [Learn more.](#)

Perdue: ABC sale not worth it

After months of study and deliberation, Governor Bev Perdue announced this week that she does not support privatizing the state's liquor system.

Perdue made her decision public at a meeting of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners in Research Triangle Park. Because of this year's budget challenges, Perdue has been considering revenue options never before on the table, such as selling the ABC system, she told the county officials. [Read more.](#)

Perdue promises aggressive response to AMEX layoffs

Governor Bev Perdue promised an aggressive response to help employees affected by American Express' decision to close its Greensboro call center.

"We are committed to helping each individual find a new job, a new place for themselves," Perdue said, in announcing a rapid response team to help the Triad region recover from the loss. "There is another day coming."

Perdue noted that the state provides resources for every resident who has lost a job. Because of the size of Amex's layoff, the rapid response team can efficiently help job seekers connect with resources that are available to all state residents. Anyone looking for a job can contact their local Employment Security Commission office. Anyone seeking a new career can investigate opportunities through the state's community colleges.

"The audacious capacity of our people to reinvent in themselves and face adversity and find a better job is what builds North Carolina. And what makes us successful and what will get us through this time," Perdue said. [See a short clip](#) of Perdue's remarks.

Logistics provider to bring 71 jobs to Montgomery



(Left-right) Fred Rudolph, director of real estate, Save-A-Lot; John Woods, director of distribution, Save-a-Lot; John Gerber, VP of distribution, Save-A-Lot; Rick Meyer, VP of real estate & construction, Save-A-Lot; John Walser, mayor of Lexington; Tommy Hedrick, chairman of the Davidson County EDC; Dale Carroll, N.C. Department of Commerce deputy secretary; Larry Potts, vice chair, Davidson County Commissioners; Mike Kormelink, real estate manager, Save-a-Lot; N.C. Representative Larry Brown

Save-A-Lot breaks ground on new distribution center

Save-A-Lot Foods broke ground Jan. 20 on a new distribution center, scheduled to open in December in Lexington. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll was on hand for the ground-breaking. The national discount grocery store announced in fall of 2010 that it would invest \$24.5 million in the new center, creating 43 jobs in the process.

[Save-A-Lot starts on Davidson Co. center](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 20)

[Save-A-Lot groundbreaking held](#) (WXII-TV, Jan. 20)

Nanotech conference scheduled for March

The Third Annual N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference is scheduled for March 29-30 at the Barnhardt Center, UNC-Charlotte.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Travis Earles, assistant director for nanotechnology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Michael Bolick, president of Lab 21, Ltd., and Doug Jamison, CEO of Harris & Harris, a publicly traded venture capital firm exclusively focused on investing in companies enabled by nanotechnology and microsystems. [Registration and program agenda is now available.](#)

N.C. creates biotech gateway with China

North Carolina biotech companies looking to increase business in China got a boost last week when The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences signed an agreement with the XY Group of China to create a bioscience gateway. The operation will help facilitate investment and trade between U.S. and Chinese biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. A delegation of approximately 100 Chinese executives as well as Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, U.S. Representative David Price and other leaders attended the signing.

County

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 20 announced that Frontier Logistics, a provider of logistics services to the plastics industry, will locate a new warehouse and transfer facility in Montgomery County. The company plans to create 71 jobs and invest \$5.15 million during the next five years in Star. The project was made possible in part by a \$128,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"In the 21st century global economy, moving goods quickly and efficiently is critical. I've focused North Carolina on the need for investing in logistics and transportation infrastructure," said Perdue. "North Carolina's strategic location, excellent transportation network and strong business climate continue to help us attract new jobs. I welcome Frontier Logistics to Montgomery County."

Frontier Logistics provides diverse and complete supply chain management services with a special focus on the plastics industry. Based in Texas, Frontier Logistics is seeking to expand its services to southeastern markets. The company will locate a new warehouse, packaging and bulk truck transfer services facility in Star to serve the plastics industry in the Southeast.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$47,577 not including benefits. The Montgomery County average annual wage is \$28,028. [Read more.](#)

Morris "Mac" McGough Dies

Morris "Mac" McGough has died at age 88 in Asheville. McGough helped found the Western North Carolina Development Association and over the course of several decades played a key role in dozens of high-impact projects throughout the mountains, including the Farmers Market, the WNC Ag Center, the North Carolina Arboretum, and I-26 through Madison County. A memorial service will take place Feb. 25.

[Community development titan Morris "Mac" McGough dead at 88](#) (*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, Jan. 19)

AAA announces Five Diamond Award winners

AAA has announced its 2011 Five Diamond Award winners for Lodging and Restaurants. In North Carolina, Five Diamond Lodging includes the Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary, The Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte and Fearington House Country Inn in Pittsboro. Fearington House Restaurant in Pittsboro is the only Five Diamond Restaurant recognized in North Carolina. [Read more.](#)

Perdue expressed North Carolina's interest in increasing trade relations with China. She also announced that she will return to China in the fall to promote international business growth.

"Our purpose today is fairly simple: We want to learn how North Carolina can collaborate and build strong partnerships with you," Perdue told the delegation. "We need to know: What can our state do better?"

Dr. Yang Yunsong, CEO of the Beijing-based XY Group, told those gathered, "This campus will be a very important gateway for Chinese companies that want to do business in North Carolina. We see a unique opportunity to advance the economic goals of both China and the United States in our partnership with The Hamner Institutes and North Carolina."

The biotech gateway will be established on the 56-acre Hamner campus in the Research Triangle Park. The plan includes a 150,000-square-foot research facility that is slated to open in 2013. This is part of an overall one million-square-foot expansion scheduled for the center. The biotech gateway is expected to create 400 new jobs by 2013. [Learn more.](#)

Crisco speaks to textiles students

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was the featured speaker Jan. 19 at a N.C. State University College of Textiles graduate seminar. Crisco reviewed the state's economic development efforts and discussed the challenges and opportunities to improving North Carolina's future economic competitiveness. [Read more.](#)

Commerce realigns Community Development Division

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco announced Jan. 19 that the Division of Community Development will be realigned for efficiency and to better utilize the division's resources.

Gloria Nance-Sims will become the Community Development Division senior advisor, and will join Assistant Secretary for Community Development Henry McKoy at the Commerce offices on Wilmington Street.

In addition, Vickie Miller will be the division director for Community Assistance, John Morck will be the director of the Community Planning Division, and Liz Parham will serve as the director of the Office of Urban Development. They will join Mark Roberts, director of Rural Development, and Olivia Collier, Appalachian Regional Commission director, and will report to McKoy. All divisions and their directors will be located at the Six Forks office. Crisco said that the realignments will allow the division to be "more efficient, effective and will serve the state better."

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 - 25, 2011

New projects assigned:	12
Projects announced:	4
Jobs created:	675
Capital invested:	\$138M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	59
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	1,309

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Strengthened film incentives face uphill battle](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, Jan. 19)
- [More jobs could come to airport](#) (*The Winston-Salem Journal*, Jan. 20)
- [N.C. gets \\$46 million for small-business loans](#) (*The Winston-Salem Journal*, Jan. 19)
- [Hamner Institutes, Chinese firm plan RTP biotech 'gateway'](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Jan. 19)

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