

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



GKN Driveline holds grand opening in Timberlake

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker on Jan. 25 spoke at the opening of the GKN Driveline plant expansion in Timberlake. The factory is the company's second manufacturing facility to open in Person County and will employ more than 130 workers. GKN Driveline Americas Managing Director Max Owen, N.C. Representative W.A. Wilkins and other local officials were also in attendance.

GKN Driveline is the world's leading supplier of automotive driveline components and systems, serving the world's leading vehicle manufacturers. Headquartered in the U.K., GKN Driveline operates in 57 locations in 23 countries.



N.C. Department of Commerce Director for International Trade Jean Davis receives a gift from Nagoya University President Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi during his visit to Commerce on Jan. 24

President of Japan's Nagoya University Visits N.C. to Strengthen Technology Ties

Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi, president of Japan's Nagoya University, visited North Carolina last week to conduct a series of meetings with business and academic leaders in the state in support of the university's technology transfer operation in Research Triangle Park.

Technology Partnership of Nagoya University Inc. (NU Tech) promotes tech transfer and research collaboration between U.S. partners and Nagoya University, mainly focusing on life science and biotechnology initiatives.

Dr. Hamaguchi and a delegation from the university visited Commerce on Jan. 24 to meet with Director for International Trade Jean Davis, Office of Science and Technology Executive Director Dr. John Hardin, and Marketing Director David Rhoades.

The group discussed NU Tech's plans for the upcoming year including hosting its annual technology showcase event and participating with Commerce at three upcoming events: the Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference (April 9-10 in Winston-Salem), the BIO International Convention (April 22-25 in Chicago), and the SEUS/Japan conference



NANOTECH COMMERCIALIZATION CONFERENCE

Registration opens for N.C.'s annual nanotech conference

Registration for the [N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference](#) is open. The conference, to be held at Wake Forest Biotech Place in Winston-Salem April 9-10, is the largest and most important nanotech industry event in the South. It will bring together more than 300 nanotech stakeholders including public and private nanotechnology companies, nanotechnology innovators, cutting edge start-ups, leading scientists, investors and executives from Fortune 100 companies.

The event is co-hosted by [The NanoBusiness Commercialization Association](#), the [N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology](#) and the [Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology](#). Early, discount [registration](#) and the [conference agenda](#) are available online.

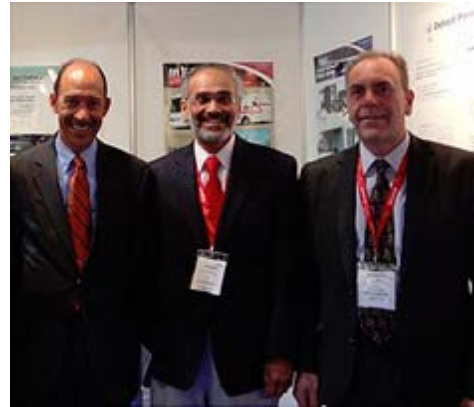


Members of the Manufacturing Makes It Real Network receive a tour of the Nomaco plant in Zebulon

Manufacturing network kicks off 2013 season in Zebulon

The 2013 season of [Manufacturing Makes It Real Network](#) events kicked off Jan. 23 at the corporate headquarters of Nomaco in Zebulon. Nomaco is a recognized leader in the extrusion and molding of synthetic materials. The event's focus was on sustainability and energy efficiency. Nomaco representatives spoke about the company's commitment to engineering solutions that conserve and reduce impact on natural resources, its recent successes in that area, and information on its products and best practices.

(Nov. 17-19 in Biloxi, MS). For a list and summary of technologies currently available from NU Tech for licensing, please refer to the list of [available technologies](#) published at the group's website.



(Left-right) U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Michael H. Corbin, N.C. Department of Commerce Technology Business Development Director Kuldip Wasson, and ABT Inc. International Sales Manager David White in Dubai

N.C. companies showcase security products in the Middle East

[Intersec 2013](#) took place Jan. 15-17 at the Dubai International Conference and Exhibition Center in the United Arab Emirates. This event is a premier security exhibition in the world as it showcases the latest equipment and advanced technological solutions in the global security sector. Companies from around the world wishing to expand their business in the Middle East attend this event. This year, Intersec attracted 990 exhibitors and some 19,500 visitors from 54 countries.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division had a booth in the U.S. pavilion. Several North Carolina companies exhibited at the show, including Matthews Specialty Vehicles of Greensboro, Appealing Products of Raleigh, ABT Inc. of Troutman, Advanced Detection Technology of Mooresville, and SAS Public Security of Cary. Commerce Technology Business Development Director Kuldip Wasson helped facilitate North Carolina exports and assisted companies in seeking out new markets and new opportunities for trade.

Despite continuing uncertainty in the global economy, homeland safety and security is a thriving industry. Growth in the Middle East is projected to accelerate due to the large building and infrastructure projects such as border protection, security of oil and gas installations, sensitive sites, etc. The Middle

Nomaco's affiliate, Nomacorc, shared lessons learned from its new solar panel installation, which was celebrated with a ribbon cutting earlier in the day. The event was capped with a guided factory tour where attendees saw foam extrusion, patented inline converting processes, warehouse solutions and scrap reuse/reclaim of engineered foam solutions.

Manufacturers are encouraged to join the network to promote their company's product lines, meet potential customers and local suppliers, and contribute to the projection of a positive image of North Carolina manufacturing. The network connects North Carolina manufacturers and helps construct stronger local supply chains that can be vital to profitability.

The Manufacturing Makes It Real Network hosts an ongoing series of open networking opportunities at host plants in each of the state's seven economic development regions. These events are a regular gathering of network members, local manufacturers, regional economic, community, and political leaders, and press. There, member companies and other interested manufacturers can connect with one another and display their "Made in North Carolina" products.

Future events scheduled for this year will be at the manufacturing facilities of NACCO in Greenville, Siemens in Charlotte, and Precor in Whitsett.



NASCAR media tour puts spotlight on Charlotte region

More than 220 motorsports journalists were in Charlotte last week for the 31st annual NASCAR Sprint Media Tour. Hosted by Charlotte Motor Speedway, the event previewed the 2013 racing season and showed off the region to credentialed participants from across the United States, Brazil, Germany, and the Netherlands. *The Associated Press, ESPN, Fox Sports, Reuters Newswire, The New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and USA Today* were among the major media outlets that made stops at more than 20 locations. Stops included Joe Gibbs Racing, Hendrick Motorsports, Penske Racing, Richard Childress Racing, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Earnhardt Ganassi Racing, Michael Waltrip Racing, Stewart-Haas Racing and Roush Fenway Racing were among the many teams that also hosted programs. "Not only will these journalists learn more about our thriving motorsports industry, but they'll see first-hand why so many teams choose to call Charlotte USA home," said Charlotte Regional Partnership President and CEO Ronnie Bryant.

[Media tour begins in Charlotte](#) (*Motor Racing Network*, Jan. 23)

East is a large export market for North Carolina companies. In 2011, North Carolina exported more than \$1.2 billion worth of products and services to the Middle Eastern countries.

LEAD releases January Economic Overview

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division has released the January edition of the N.C. Economic Overview.

This month in the overview, North Carolina's unemployment rate rose to 9.2 percent while the economy added 7,900 jobs in December. November exports were up six percent over the same period last year and totaled \$2.4 billion. The N.C. State University Index of N.C. Leading Economic Indicators is now at its highest level in almost five years, propelled in part by increased manufacturing hours and earnings. [Read more.](#)



In SYNC: Tiffany Hall McNeill

N.C. Department of Commerce Client Services Manager Tiffany Hall McNeill is not a native of North Carolina; however, she has spent the majority of her life in Wake and Harnett counties. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from East Carolina University and master's degree in public administration from North Carolina Central University. McNeill joined the Department in 2006 as its resource manager and was promoted to client services manager the following year.

"As the client services manager, I serve as the first point of contact for companies looking to

N.C. tourism partners sparkle with AAA Diamonds

AAA has announced its 2013 Five and Four Diamond Award winners for Hotels and Restaurants. In North Carolina, Five Diamond Lodging includes The Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary, The Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte and the Fearington House Country Inn in Pittsboro. Five Diamond Restaurants are Heron's in Cary and the Fearington House Restaurant in Pittsboro.

Four Diamond Hotels include Asheville's 1889 White Gate Inn & Cottage, 1900 Inn on Montford, Albemarle Inn, Biltmore Village, Grand Bohemian Hotel, Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park, Inn on Biltmore Estate, and The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa; Lodge at Eagle's Nest by Ashmore Luxury Rentals in Banner Elk; The Lovill House Inn in Boone; Innisfree Inn By-The-Lake in Cashiers; Chapel Hill's The Carolina Inn and The Siena Hotel; Charlotte's Hilton Charlotte Center City, Marriott Charlotte SouthPark, Omni Charlotte Hotel, Renaissance Charlotte-SouthPark, The Ballantyne, The Duke Mansion Historic Inn & Meeting Place, and The Westin Charlotte; Duck's The Sanderling Inn; Durham's Arrowhead Inn Bed & Breakfast, The King's Daughter Inn and the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club; Greensboro's Grandover Resort & Conference Center Golf & Spa, O. Henry Hotel and Proximity Hotel; the Old Edwards Inn & Spa in Highlands; the Greystone Inn in Lake Toxaway; Pinehurst's The Carolina Hotel and Holly Inn; Raleigh's Cameron Park Inn and Renaissance Raleigh North Hills Hotel; and Wilmington's Graystone Inn and The Verandas.

Four Diamond Restaurants include Asheville's Horizons; Boone's Gamekeeper Restaurant & Bar; Chapel Hill's Carolina Crossroads Restaurant and Il Palio Ristorante; Charlotte's Bonterra Dining & Wine Room, McNinch House and Zebra Restaurant and Fine Catering; Duck's The Left Bank; Durham's Four Square Restaurant and The Fairview Dining Room; Highland's Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden; Kinston's Chef and The Farmer; Pinehurst's 1895 Grille; and Raleigh's Second Empire Restaurant & Tavern.

locate and expand in our state. I work with the companies and/or site selection consultants to determine their business needs," explains McNeill. "Then I work with our management team to assign members from our business recruitment team to assist clients with their site selection decision. I also serve as the administrator of Salesforce, our client relationship management system, tracking economic trends and reporting on our sales activity. "

In order for the state to be more competitive among executives and site selection consultants, McNeill believes "it is essential for North Carolina to continue to communicate/market our true product, our skilled workers. Whether that is through marketing materials or face-to-face meetings, we have to continuously send the message that we are a state that produces talent."

In her down time, Tiffany enjoys spending time with her husband and their 1-year old son, as well as with family and friends. Her hobbies include softball, traveling and photography.

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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 - Jan. 29, 2013

New projects assigned:	31
Projects announced:	4
Jobs announced:	100
Capital investment announced:	\$45.7M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	39
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	1,362

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Spirit ahead of schedule with its \\$100M GTP plant improvement plan](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 25)
- [Jerry Broadway retiring from Lake Norman economic-development agency](#) (*Charlotte*



One of the engines at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer

Pop star Bieber rocks photo shoot at Transportation Museum in Spencer

Justin Bieber, one of the biggest pop stars on the planet, was in Spencer over the Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend doing a photo shoot for *Teen Vogue* at the N.C. Transportation Museum. Museum Interim Director Larry Neal said a production crew from Greensboro photographed Bieber in several locations throughout the property. The magazine paid for the privilege of using the state-owned facility as a photo backdrop.

"It's very beneficial for the museum in showcasing the fact that our property does lend itself to these types of activities," Neal said. "We do welcome those shoots and movie production on site."

[Pop star Justin Bieber rocks photo shoot in Spencer, eats in Salisbury](#) (*Salisbury Post*, Jan. 22)

- Business Journal*, Jan. 25)
- [Arden call center to hire 100 new workers](#) (*Citizen-Times* - Asheville, Jan. 24)
 - [Wuxi Taiji, Chinese company, to bring 78 jobs to Catawba County](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Jan. 24)
 - [Malaysian ambassador talks tech, trade, education](#) (*Wilmington Business Journal*, Jan. 24)
 - [CED maps Triangle's tech cluster digitally](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 24)
 - [Lowe's hiring 45,000 seasonal workers](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 23)
 - [Hawfields, other megasites have 'great potential'](#) (*Times-News* - Burlington, Jan. 19)
 - [N.C. workers' pay rose by 4.4 percent in 2012](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 18)
 - [Siemens, CPCC promote apprenticeship program to Congress](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Jan. 18)

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