

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

Belgian Furniture Company to Bring 113 Manufacturing Jobs to High Point

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Feb. 19 that BuzziSpace Inc. will locate its North American manufacturing headquarters in Guilford County. The furniture company plans to create 113 jobs and invest more than \$1.75 million during the next five years in High Point.

BuzziSpace will operate out of a renovated building that once housed the operations of the Pickett Cotton Mill, which first opened more than 100 years ago.

"High Point's international reputation for manufacturing is a strong selling point for North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "BuzziSpace's project marks a giant step forward in our manufacturing comeback, transforming a once vacant property into a development-ready site that will create good-paying, permanent jobs. This will promote High Point and the Triad as a hub for manufacturing and innovation, and attract more businesses from around the world."

BuzziSpace's products are developed for the workspaces of tomorrow and stand out because of their functionality, lightness and flexibility. The aspect of multi-functionalism is always the main interest of the design. The intention is to present unique products that may be used in diverse ways, in any room and are effective acoustically.

"The BuzziSpace project demonstrates how investments in customized training programs and critical infrastructure can spur job creation," said Secretary Decker. "Location and a top-notch workforce make North Carolina the perfect place for international companies to manufacture and deliver products to markets around the world."

BuzziSpace products focus on acoustics, ecology and flexibility. These qualities distinguish products by BuzziSpace and focus on recycling, environmentally friendly processing of materials, and the sustainable use of raw materials and energy.

"The High Point facility will be a reflection of who we are, what we stand for," said Tom Van Dessel, CEO of BuzziSpace. "We feel strongly about creating a destination and a place that the local population will take pride in. In this place, we can make a real difference in the community by investing in its rich history in furniture, and its skilled labor.



(Left-right) Paul Vergara, National Spinning Co, OMTEX / O'Mara Inc.; Andrew S. Hicks, Burlington Worldwide; Glenn Jackman, N.C. Department of Commerce; Kim Nguyen, US Commercial Service OTEXA; Laura Camberos de Pereira, N.C. Department of Commerce; Jonathan Murphy, Sattler Corp., Outdura; Becky Lane, Sattler Corp., Outdura; David Pineda Diaz, Parkdale Mills; and Andy Long, Tuscarora Yarns Inc.

International Trade Division Visits Mexico City for ExpoProduccion

Members of N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division (ITD) team visited Mexico City with representatives of North Carolina's textile industry to showcase the wide variety of products made in the state and to spread the word about their high quality and cost competitiveness. Glenn Jackman, ITD, Laura Camberos de Pereira, ITD Mexico and company representatives showcased North Carolina textile manufacturing at ExpoProduccion, a textile and apparel industry trade show held at the World Trade Center in Mexico City, February 6-8, 2014.

North Carolina textile exhibitors included National Spinning Co.; OMTEX / O'Mara Inc.; Burlington Worldwide; Sattler Corp.; Parkdale Mills; Tuscarora Yarns Inc.; TC Squared; Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC; Sewn Product Equipment Suppliers of the Americas; and International Compliance Group.

We'd particularly like to thank the State of North Carolina, Guilford County and the City of High Point for supporting us so strongly."

Salaries will vary by job function, with an average annual wage for all jobs of \$45,000 plus benefits. The Guilford County average annual wage is \$43,326.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$100,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches. The state grant will be based on the company creating 50 jobs during the first three years of the project.

"This jobs announcement will be a strong addition to High Point's reputation as the world's leading hub for furniture manufacturing," said N.C. Senator Trudy Wade. "These jobs were made possible thanks to the coordination of our governor, secretary of commerce, as well as the recent tax reform which is making North Carolina more competitive in the global marketplace."

The High Point facility will also assist in the marketing activities of the company's Atlanta and Chicago showrooms, as well as conduct research and development, prototyping and oversee regulation for its North American products.

"Creating jobs has been and continues to be a top priority for North Carolina, so we are thrilled to welcome BuzziSpace," said N.C. Representative John Faircloth. "Our thanks also go out to the leadership of Governor McCrory and Secretary Sharon Decker on bringing everyone to the table."

Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, Guilford Technical Community College, Guilford County, High Point Economic Development Corporation and the City of High Point.

Industry and Community Leaders to Meet at State of the Research Triangle Region Event

Industry and community leaders will gain a perspective of the region's economy at the State of the Research Triangle Region event on May 22 at the Sheraton Imperial. The Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), along with naming sponsors [PNC](#) and the [Research Triangle Foundation](#), will present the annual event. This year the event will focus on the impact of higher education on the Triangle's economic growth and business trends.

This event, typically attended by more than 900 regional leaders, provides insight into the continuing growth of the region. Topics will include employment and job growth as well



(Left-right) N.C. Senator Rick Gunn; Cindy Montgomery, Chair, Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce; N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker; and Gregory Grier, Sales Manager, Professional Office Furnishings

Decker Addresses Alamance County Chamber of Commerce

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker highlighted the Alamance County Economic Development Foundation's "Focus on Readiness 3" celebration. This event concluded year two of the five-year funding campaign.

Decker also assisted Chamber Chair Cindy Montgomery in presenting the 2013 Economic Development Impact award for the important role that companies play in local economic development projects. Four companies were recognized for their commitments to Alamance County during the year: Continental Ticking, Meredith Webb Printing, Walmart, and Kayser Roth.

"Our work together to improve the Alamance County community has resulted in 905 jobs and almost \$170 million in investment during the first two years of our five-year funding campaign," said Cindy Montgomery. "Let's continue this momentum for the next three years and beyond, and take the Secretary's challenge to 'Use What We've Got.'"



Shark tank? Actually, Secretary Decker and friend celebrate the grand opening of the Sea Life Charlotte-Concord Aquarium Feb. 20

Decker Welcomes New Tourist

as new industries and evolving opportunities as the Triangle region continues to outperform other areas of the country.

PNC Regional President Paula Fryland noted that a key attraction of the area when the bank entered the region was the abundance of available talent. "Operating in a market with such extensive higher education assets provides access to talent and fuels strong economic growth for the region, creating value for our company and our shareholders," said Fryland.

"The university system and business leaders have a rich heritage of banding together to promote innovation and economic growth," said Bob Geolas, president and CEO of the Research Triangle Foundation. "That partnership continues to make this region part of the global conversation about how an excellent higher education system has the power to transform lives and businesses."

Charles Hayes, president and CEO of the RTRP, connected the importance of higher education to regional businesses, saying, "We work with a variety of entities to utilize the assets in this area to build new solutions, new industries, new jobs, and new modes of thinking. That results in a strong, innovative regional economy that can compete against any in the world."

Those interested in sponsoring or attending the State of the Research Triangle Region event should contact Emmit Owens at eowens@researchtriangle.org or 919-334-4076.

Attraction

On February 20, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker offered welcoming remarks at the grand opening celebration for Merlin Entertainment's Sea Life Aquarium at Concord Mills in Concord.

The new attraction, the 100th such facility that Merlin Entertainment has opened around the country, will give people a chance to walk "under" an ocean of marine animals. The 36,000-square-foot aquarium features 5,000 creatures, including sharks, stingrays, an octopus, seahorses, jellyfish, and other animals.

The event was broadcast live to Europe and to every Merlin Entertainment venue throughout the world. The aquarium provides a new attraction for Concord Mills and Cabarras County.

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. 24, 2014

New projects assigned:	54
Projects announced:	14
Jobs announced:	584
Capital investment announced:	\$55M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	70
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	2,909

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Furniture making comes back to the South](#) (*CNN Money.com*, Feb. 25)
- [UNC system to sign transfer agreement with community colleges](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 20)
- [Chinese company to open distribution facility in Charlotte](#) (*Charlotte Business*)

Journal, Feb. 20)

- [Triangle makes short list for Google Fiber high-speed network](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 19)
- [Charlotte makes Google's short list for high-speed fiber network](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 19)
- [Manufacturing employment unlikely to recover fully, economist Mark Vitner says](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 18)

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