

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Areva CEO Mike Rencheck with Gov. Pat McCrory at Monday's event announcing the company's decision to expand in Charlotte

## Nuclear energy company AREVA to expand in Mecklenburg County

Monday (March 4), Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that AREVA, the largest technical resource for the nation's nuclear energy sector, will expand its operations in Charlotte to include its North American headquarters. The company plans to create 130 jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2016 and invest \$404,000 into its Mecklenburg County location.

"We are working to make our state the very best place to live and do business," said Governor McCrory. "Businesses have choices, and we are proud that AREVA has chosen North Carolina for its headquarters."

With a Charlotte presence established in 2002, AREVA provides its customers with solutions for low-carbon power generation in North America and around the world. With global headquarters in France, AREVA is a leader in nuclear energy and a significant, growing player in the renewable energies sector. AREVA combines U.S. and Canadian leadership, access to worldwide expertise and a proven track record of performance. [Uconda Dunn](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"The North Carolina Department of Commerce is committed to working with existing companies to spur job creation and growth," said Sharon Decker, North Carolina Secretary of Commerce. "We congratulate AREVA for its success and for investing in North Carolina once again." [Read more.](#)

## Shoe retailer to expand in Mecklenburg County

On March 1, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Rack Room Shoes, a family footwear retailer, will expand its corporate headquarters in Charlotte. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Uconda Dunn](#) was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 87 jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2017 and invest \$16.03 million into its Mecklenburg County headquarters. The project was made possible in part by an award from the state [Job Development Investment Grant program](#). Receipt of the award is based on proof of job creation and other performance requirements.

Founded in 1922 as a single shoe store called Phil's Shoes, Rack Room Shoes is a subsidiary of the Deichmann Group, a German-based privately-held footwear retailer. Rack Room Shoes and its subsidiary, Off Broadway Shoes Warehouse, employ more than 6,500 associates in more than 450 stores in 34 states, with 49 of those stores located in North Carolina. Off Broadway Shoes Warehouse has an additional five locations in the state.

Rack Room Shoes plans to expand its current Charlotte facility to locate its headquarters and the Off Broadway headquarters on one campus. Off Broadway's headquarters is currently located in Georgia. This expansion will enable the company to grow both store counts and sales, and specifically to undertake growth of the Off Broadway brand at an accelerated pace over the next five years.

Under the terms of the company's JDIG award, Rack Room Shoes is eligible to receive up to seven annual grants equal to 40 percent of the state personal income tax withholdings from the eligible new jobs created since the date of the initial award. Receipt of each annual grant is based on state-certified proof that the company has fulfilled incremental job creation and capital investment requirements. Over seven years, the JDIG award could yield aggregate benefits to Rack Room Shoes of up to \$663,000



(Left-right) Scott Satterfield of Wilmington Business Development, New Hanover County Commission Chairman Woody White, Castle Branch CEO Brett Martin, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary and COO Dale Carroll, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, and Billy King of Wilmington Business Development

## Background screening firm to expand in New Hanover County

On March 1, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Castle Branch, a company that provides background screening, drug testing, employment verification, vendor credentialing, and other services, will expand its corporate headquarters in Wilmington. The company plans to create 420 new jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2017 and invest \$10.2 million into its New Hanover County location. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project

Founded in 1997, Castle Branch began as a provider of background checks and drug-testing services for businesses. Since that time, the company has evolved into related fields that include health care and vendor credentialing tools. Castle Branch employs 200 people at its Wilmington headquarters and recently expanded with a sales office in California.

The project was made possible in part by an award from the state [Job Development Investment Grant program](#). Under the terms of the company's JDIG award, Castle Branch is eligible to receive up to eight annual grants equal to 45 percent of the state personal income tax withholdings from the eligible new jobs created since the date of the initial award. Receipt of each annual grant is based on state-certified proof that the company has fulfilled incremental job creation and capital investment requirements. Over eight years, the JDIG award could yield aggregate benefits to Castle Branch of up to \$1,238,250.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: N.C. Community Colleges, New Hanover County, Wilmington Business Development, and the City of Wilmington. [Read more.](#)

[Castle Branch to stay in Wilmington, add 420 new jobs](#)  
(Greater Wilmington Business Journal, March 1)

## Furniture manufacturer to create 11 jobs in Rockingham County

On March 1, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Southern Finishing

In addition, up to \$221,000 in additional funds from the company's JDIG award could be added to the state's Utility Fund for infrastructure improvements in economically distressed counties. When the JDIG is awarded to a company whose site is located in the state's more economically prosperous counties such as Mecklenburg, 25 percent of the company's grant is allocated to the Utility Fund to encourage economic development in less prosperous counties.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Chamber. [Read more.](#)



## Packaging manufacturer to create 41 jobs in Guilford County

On Feb. 27, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that North State Flexibles, a manufacturer of flexible packaging products, will expand its facility in Guilford County. The company plans to create 41 jobs and invest more than \$4.4 million over the next three years in Greensboro. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Jan Critz](#) was the developer on this project.

North State Flexibles, a subsidiary of St. Johns Packaging, produces flexible packaging products to consumer product companies in the food and personal care markets. The company currently employs more than 120 people at its Guilford County facility.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$61,500. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. 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.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Guilford County, Greensboro Economic Development Alliance and the City of Greensboro. [Read more.](#)

Company, a furniture and cabinet component manufacturer, will expand its facility in Rockingham County. The company plans to create 11 jobs and invest more than \$500,000 over the next three years in Stoneville. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Jan Critz](#) was the developer on this project.

Southern Finishing Company, founded in 1978, specializes in prefinishing mouldings, accessories, panels, doors, kitchen and bath cabinet components, and bedrails crafted to each customer's specifications. The company partners with manufacturers such as American Woodmark, Marsh Furniture, Armstrong Cabinets, Quality Cabinets, and Thomasville Furniture. Southern Finishing currently employs 10 people at its Stoneville facility.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$13,000. [Read more.](#)

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Rockingham County, Rockingham County Partnership for Economic and Tourism Development and the Town of Stoneville.

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## State hosts site selection consultants in New Orleans

The 2013 Site Selectors Guild Conference was held in New Orleans Feb. 25-27. Thirty-five site consultants and 175 economic development executives attended the conference organized by the Guild, a peer-administered organization of the country's top site location advisors. The [Friends of North Carolina](#) sponsored a dinner during the conference on Feb. 26.

The mission of the [The Site Selectors Guild](#) is to advance the profession of international corporate site selection by promoting the site selection profession and providing education, networking and other services to those involved in the site selection industry.

Founded in 2010, the Site Selector Guild's vision is to create a dynamic network of site selection professionals that work together for the benefit of all and facilitate direct contact between corporations seeking guidance in facility placement and qualified site selection companies.



## 2013 Nanotech Commercialization Conference announces keynote lineup

Global technology leaders will descend upon North Carolina for the Fifth Annual Nanotech Commercialization Conference, April 9-10 in Winston-Salem. The conference is hosted by the Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology, the

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## N.C. leads the country in deployment of capital for businesses under State Small Business Credit Initiative

The U.S. Treasury Department recognizes North Carolina as a national leader in implementing the State Small Business Credit Initiative, according to Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty. This program was authorized in the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. It allocated \$1.5 billion among the states based on population and unemployment. North Carolina's share was \$46.1 million.

North Carolina was the second state to file its application to the U.S. Treasury to participate in the program and the first to be funded, according to Daugherty. He notes that funding was to be disbursed in three installments based on achieving milestones for obligation of funds provided and that North Carolina is among the first states to fully draw down its total funding allocation.

Daugherty oversees the administration of these funds in the state through the N.C. Rural Center. Capital has been committed and deployed through three programs: (1) a Loan Loss Reserve Program undertaken with participating banks (2) a Loan Participation Program also undertaken with participating banks and (3) a Fund of Funds Program with investments in private investment funds.

According to Daugherty, just over \$27.1 million in State Small Business Credit Initiative funds allocated to the state have been committed to these three programs and have leveraged an additional commitment of \$191.3 million in private capital for loans and investments.

As a result of these successes, U.S. Treasury has asked Daugherty and Tony Johnson of the N.C. Rural Center to lead a best practices forum at an upcoming national conference for the states participating in the Small Business Credit Initiative Program.





NanoBusiness Commercialization Association and the N.C. Office of Science & Technology . Corporate, investor, start-up and academic leaders will all be in attendance at this cutting edge event. The early registration rate of \$150 (\$75 for students) is [available now](#).

Nanotechnology is rapidly transforming a variety of industries, from medicine and manufacturing, to filtration and energy. Since the passage by the U.S. Congress of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research & Development Act in 2003, the U.S. has spent more than \$24 billion on developing the science of nanotechnology. This science is rapidly becoming the business of nanotechnology, creating thousands of new start-ups and jobs, bolstering nearly every industry around the globe, and bringing life-changing innovations to market. [Learn more about the nanotech industry in North Carolina](#).

The Nanotech Commercialization Conference is designed to be a venue for networking with fellow professionals and keeping up with the cutting edge developments of the industry. The conference will feature a dynamic lineup of keynote speakers on its [agenda](#), including:

- Dr. Mihail C. Roco, Senior Advisor for Nanotechnology, National Science Foundation
- Anthony Atala, M.D., Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- Scott E. Rickert, Ph.D., NanoFilm President, Co-Founder & CEO
- Scott Livingston, Livingston Securities Chairman & CEO
- Dr. Sally Tinkle, National Nanotechnology Coordination Office Deputy Director
- Prof. David L. Carroll, Ph.D., Director, Nanotechnology & Molecular Materials, Wake Forest University
- Douglas W. Jamison, Chairman of the Board, CEO & Managing Director of New York City- based Harris & Harris Group, Inc.
- Jim Phillips, Chairman/CEO of Arkansas-based NanoMech

The conference will be held at Wake Forest Biotech Place in the Piedmont Triad Research Park, located at 575 N. Patterson Avenue in Winston-Salem.

Major sponsors for the Nanotech Commercialization Conference include: CytoViva, Inc., Senn Dunn Insurance, The Joint School of Nanoscience & Nanoengineering, Gateway University Research Park, Womble Carlyle, Foley & Lardner LLP, nanoTox, Inc., and Xemerge.

## NPS report: Economic impact of national parks to local communities

National Parks continued to be important economic engines for local communities, with visitors generating \$30.1 billion in economic activity and supporting 252,000 jobs nationwide in 2011, according to [a peer-reviewed report released last week by the National Park Service](#).

The report shows that Western North Carolina's three national park units - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway and Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site - help generate millions of dollars for the local economies. Almost 24.5 million visitors spent nearly \$1.2 billion, supporting close to 16,000 local jobs.

The one Piedmont region national park unit - Guilford Courthouse National Military Park - welcomed 346,617 visitors, who spent \$18.3 million, which supported just under 281 local jobs.

The report for the Coast region shows more than 3.25 million visitors to Cape Lookout National Seashore, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Moores Creek National Battlefield, and Wright Brothers National Memorial spent nearly \$171 million in communities surrounding the parks. This spending supported 2276 local jobs.

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## 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 - March 5, 2013

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	77
<b>Projects announced:</b>	19
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	1,773
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$331M
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	208
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	3,875

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## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Durham data center coming in June, already hiring](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 28)
- [Small Town Main Street program provides advice to Saluda leaders](#) (*Tryon Daily Bulletin*, Feb. 28)
- [N.C. exporting at record clip](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 26)
- [Electrolux to invest \\$100,000 in technology scholarships at Johnson C. Smith University](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, Feb. 26)
- [LEDA's Cliff Brumfield: Lincoln has sites, work force for development](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 26)
- [Greensboro group touts growth in jobs, investment](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Feb. 26)
- [Oskar Blues' new Brevard brewery signals future of North Carolina craft beer scene](#) (*The News & Observer* – Raleigh, Feb. 26)
- [Zach Galifianakis! Raleigh still calling](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 26)

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