

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



Commerce Secretary John Skvarla, NCSU Chancellor Randy Woodson and CBC Co. Ltd. CEO Kazuhiko Kondo at the North Carolina Japan Center

## Japanese Company Selects North Carolina

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced April 22 that CBC AMERICAS, Corporation will locate its U.S. headquarters in Wake County and open a distribution center in Alamance County.

The move will create 67 new jobs in Wake County and 29 new jobs in Alamance County over the next five years. The company plans to invest at least \$3.5 million.

"CBC AMERICAS is a welcome addition to our thriving community of Japanese businesses in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "North Carolina continues to gain a global reputation as a great location for international businesses."

CBC AMERICAS Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japan-based CBC Co. Ltd., and part of a global network of import, export, trading, and distribution companies, strategically located throughout the world. The corporation is comprised of six business divisions: Imaging Technology, Optics, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Flooring, Plastics and Eco-Energy. The company specializes in security solutions, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, renewable energy technology and video surveillance products.

"CBC AMERICAS will join North Carolina's diverse economy made up of companies from all over the world," said Secretary Skvarla. "Foreign direct investment continues to be an important piece of North Carolina's economic future and we gain a U.S. headquarters."

"North Carolina will provide CBC with the economically rich



## O'Neil Digital Solutions to Bring 250 New Jobs to Union County

O'Neil Digital Solutions, LLC will open a new facility in Union County, creating 250 new jobs over the next five years. The company plans to invest \$90.7 million in the facility located in the town of Monroe.

"O'Neil Digital's decision to locate in Union County demonstrates to companies across the nation of the advantages of doing business in North Carolina," said Governor Pat McCrory. "With Union County workers, O'Neil Digital Solutions will not only grow, but thrive."

O'Neil Digital Solutions, LLC is based in Los Angeles and provides print and mail services to customers throughout the country. The company was founded in 1973 by William J. O'Neil to produce time-sensitive investment research publications from his extensive database on publicly traded companies. Since that time, O'Neil has grown into a national provider of data-driven publishing and marketing communication services for major U.S. organizations. The Monroe location is being established to better serve the company's East Coast customers.

"We are very pleased to become part of the community of Union County and the city of Monroe," said Jim Lucanish, president of O'Neil. "One of the largest factors in our choice to come to North Carolina along with its location, and I know it's a cliché, but people make a business. And great people is what we found here."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$2.25 million. 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

environment so we can continue to thrive while providing the state with secure well-paying jobs and tax revenues," said Kazuhiko Kondo, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Vice President. "Our employees will benefit from the educational resources and cultural and leisure activities that North Carolina has to offer."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$63,000.

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Capital Area Workforce Development](#), [Regional Partnership Workforce Development](#), [Elon University](#), [Meredith College](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [North Carolina Japan Center](#), the [Town of Mebane](#), [Alamance County](#), the [Cary Chamber of Commerce](#), and [Wake County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)

## New Round of Grants for Rural North Carolina

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 16 grants or loans on April 23, totaling more than \$4.7 million with the commitment of 392 new jobs.

[Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#)/loans approved include:

- **City of Thomasville, Davidson County:** \$120,000 loan for North American Implements Company to support the reuse of a vacant industrial building. The company will invest \$750,000 in the renovation and for new equipment and has committed to creating six new, full-time jobs.
- **City of Thomasville, Davidson County:** \$240,000 loan for Y&Y Hardwood Company to support the reuse of an industrial building vacant for ten years. The company will invest \$3 million in renovating and equipping the building, creating 12 new, full-time jobs.
- **Town of Denton, Davidson County:** \$131,250 to construct a pump station and sewer force main to allow Century Hosiery to expand at its current site. Century Hosiery has committed to creating 11 full time jobs at the Denton plant.
- **Sampson County:** \$500,000 to provide public sewer service to a proposed manufacturing plant to be constructed by Kansas City Sausage Company. The company has committed to creating 50 new full time at the new plant.

The Industrial Development Fund Utility Account grants approved include:

- **Martin County:** \$926,675 to assist with improvements to Everetts Industrial Park. The improvements would open five lots for companies to locate and serve as a catalyst for economic development.

[Building Reuse Program grants](#)/loans approved:

- **Ashe County:** \$500,000 to support the reuse of a building in Jefferson constructed in 1978 that has been vacant for more than four months. American Emergency Vehicles, a manufacturer of ambulances, will relocate from its current facility in an expansion creating 40 new,

funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

"North Carolina's strategic mid-Atlantic location and low cost of doing business help attract companies like O'Neil Digital Solutions," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "Our workforce is ready to get started in these well-paying jobs."

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), [Monroe-Union County Economic Development](#), the [City of Monroe](#), and [Union County](#).

[Read more.](#)



*N. C. Department of Commerce Office of Science, Technology & Innovation Executive Director John Hardin (center left) cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Lenovo's Enterprise Briefing Center in RTP. Also pictured (l-r) are Erik Reid, VP, Sales and Marketing Group, Intel; Jaesoo Han, President & CEO, Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.; Jay Parker, Senior VP, Enterprise Business Group, Lenovo; Kristi Link, Senior Director, OEM Sales, QLogic; Denise Jayne, VP of OEM Sales, Emerson.*

## Lenovo's Briefing Center in RTP Now Open

Lenovo celebrated the opening of its North American Enterprise Briefing Center at the company's Research Triangle Park Campus on April 16.

"The goal of the center is to host more than 500 corporate customers annually," said Jay Parker, senior vice president of Lenovo's enterprise business.

Dr. John Hardin, executive director of the Office of Science, Technology & Innovation in the North Carolina Commerce Department participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Lenovo has a huge multiplier effect in this region and in this state," said Dr. Hardin. "This center is really going to help grow that multiplier effect. This investment in our local and statewide economy represents Lenovo's continued commitment to North Carolina, and it will help keep North Carolina a hub for

full-time jobs.

- **City of Morganton, Burke County:** \$212,500 to support the reuse of a building constructed in 1901. American Hospitality Furnishings is a manufacturer of custom furniture and will locate in the former Drexel Heritage Facility. The company has committed to creating 17 new, full-time jobs.
- **The Town of Edenton (Chowan County):** \$18,020 to support the reuse of a building constructed in 1985 and vacant for 18 months. Albemarle Urgent Care, Inc. is a new company providing urgent treatment for non-life threatening conditions. It has committed to creating two new, full-time jobs.
- **Franklin County:** \$500,000 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 1991 occupied by Palziv North America for the last five years. The company has committed to creating 40 new, full-time jobs.
- **Hyde County:** \$25,000 to support the reuse of a 1988 building vacant for 12 months. The 1718: Ocracoke Brewing Company, a craft brewery, will locate in the building with plans to create five new, full-time jobs.
- **Martin County:** \$220,000 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 1961 and occupied by Penco Products for the last 14 years. The company has committed to creating 22 new, full-time jobs.
- **Stanly County:** \$240,000 to support the reuse of a building in Albemarle constructed in 1980 and vacant for more than four years. Kraftsman, Inc., a manufacturer of landscape and equipment trailers, will locate in the building creating 20 new, full-time jobs.
- **Surry County:** \$80,000 to support the expansion of a building located in Mount Airy and occupied by Johnson Granite, Inc. for the last 11 years. The company has committed to creating eight new, full-time jobs.

[Economic Infrastructure Projects](#) approved:

- **Cherokee County:** \$71,678 to allow Peachtree Manor, Inc. to open an eighty (80) bed assisted living facility that will include a Special Care Unit for patients with Alzheimer's disease. The company has committed to creating 49 new, full-time jobs
- **Gaston County:** \$500,000 that will allow Tosaf USA, Inc. to open a facility in Gaston County. The Bessemer City facility will be its first entry into the U.S. market. Tosaf USA has committed to creating 60 new, full-time jobs over a two year period
- **Sampson County:** \$500,000 that will allow Kansas City Sausage Company, LLC, to expand its operations in Sampson County.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. The grants-making programs of the division include assistance for building reuse and well as infrastructure, including water and sewer.

[Read more.](#)

innovation in computer science and information technology."

The new multimillion-dollar facility offers 11,000 square feet of briefing space where customers can view, demo and interact directly with Lenovo's latest enterprise equipment.

The center in RTP is the first of three that Lenovo plans for its enterprise business worldwide. A Beijing center is scheduled to open in May, followed by a June opening in Stuttgart, Germany.



North Carolina  
Main Street

### North Carolina Communities Receive National Main Street Accreditation for 2015

The National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has accredited 35 North Carolina communities for meeting performance standards. This year marks a 26% increase in communities that achieved accreditation. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its partners announce the accredited Main Street programs that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to historic preservation and community revitalization.

"These communities worked hard to meet the standards established by the National Main Street Center, and we are pleased to see them recognized for their achievement," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "Local Main Street programs across our state work every day to beautify our towns and bring businesses and jobs to their downtowns strengthening our overall economy."

The North Carolina Main Street communities that earned accreditation for their 2014 performance are: Albemarle, Belmont, Boone, Brevard, Burlington, Clayton, Clinton, Concord, Eden, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Elkin, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Goldsboro, Hertford, Hickory, Kings Mountain, Lenoir, Marion, Monroe, Morganton, Mount Airy, New





## ARC Strategic Listening Session On Tap for May 15

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will hold a series of listening sessions in the Appalachian region to gather input on challenges and emerging opportunities in Appalachia. The comments and insights gathered from these sessions will help the commission develop a strategic plan that will guide ARC's economic and community development efforts in the coming years.

North Carolina's listening session will take place Friday, May 15 in Forest City. Other meetings will be held in Mississippi, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

ARC is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local governments. Its mission is to be a strategic partner and advocate for sustainable community and economic development in Appalachia. This series of listening sessions will be an opportunity for ARC to hear from citizens, local leaders, and representatives of private, public, and nonprofit organizations about the issues and challenges their communities face, as well as opportunities and successes.

More information is available by contacting Olivia Collier, the ARC Program Manager for North Carolina, at (919) 715-0535 or by email at [ocollier@nccommerce.com](mailto:ocollier@nccommerce.com).

## Commerce Workforce Team Welcomes New Members

The Division of Workforce Solutions in the N.C. Department of Commerce welcomes two new team members.

Pamela Howze joined the division on March 9 as the new Director of Work-Based Learning, part of a reorganization announced by Assistant Secretary Will Collins.

Howze will oversee the Business Services and NCWorks Apprenticeship units. Her background includes work with business and industry, community colleges, apprenticeships, and adult education programs.

Ronald Jamison joined the division as the new chief administrative officer on April 20. Jamison's background includes strategic planning, budgeting, auditing, and internal control systems, as well as team leadership and staff development. He will oversee the division's finance department.

"Pam and Ron are proven leaders and strong additions to our team," said Collins. "The positive energy and enthusiasm each brings to the overall team moves us forward in making good things happen for the people and businesses of our great state. As we improve the way we do business, we'll be even more effective at connecting talented job seekers with employers."

Bern, North Wilkesboro, Roanoke Rapids, Roxboro, Salisbury, Smithfield, Spruce Pine, Statesville, Wake Forest, Washington, Waynesville and Wilson.

[Read more.](#)

## N.C. in the News

- [Delay on incentives worries former commerce leaders](#) (WRAL.com - April 28)
- [Triad, N.C. community colleges see enrollment decline as economy improves](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - April 27)
- [Printer to bring \\$140M investment, 250 jobs to Monroe](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - April 23)
- [New HQ jobs: Japanese connections help put N.C. above Pennsylvania, Texas](#) (Triangle Business Journal - April 23)
- [State allocates \\$250M for second N.C. Innovation Fund](#) (Triangle Business Journal - April 21)
- [Need 380 qualified employees? Training effort led by this Triad group is about to begin](#) (Triad Business Journal - April 21)
- [Bill proposes interstate status for U.S. 70](#) (Havelock News - April 20)
- [Economic Development Partnership CEO outlines growth strategy](#) (Wilmington Star News Online - April 17)
- [Public-private Partnership Crucial For N.C. Growth, CEO Tells Locals](#) (WilmingtonBiz - April 16)
- [Dr. Scott Ralls named NOVA president](#) (Fairfax News - Fairfax County, VA - April 16)
- [Job growth study: Raleigh No. 2 in tech, No. 1 in STEM](#) (WRAL TechWire - April 15)
- [Charlotte mayor: MetLife an example of incentives' success](#) (Charlotte Observer - April 15)
- [MetLife: We've created more than 1,500 Charlotte jobs](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - April 14)

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