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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue (third from right) helps break ground on a new \$90 million ABB plant in Huntersville.

ABB breaks ground on Huntersville plant

Swiss company [ABB Group](#) broke ground April 4 on a new \$90 million plant that will employ 100 engineers and others in Huntersville. ABB, whose North American headquarters are in Cary, provides transmission and distribution equipment and technology for power grids around the world. The Huntersville plant will make high-voltage, underground electrical cables to extend the U.S. power grid. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Martyn Johnson was the developer on this project

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll were on-hand at the groundbreaking. During her remarks, Perdue said that ABB helps solidify the Charlotte region's reputation as an energy hub.

"They are an outstanding company, and I can't tell you how important they are to the state," Perdue said at Central Piedmont Community College's North Campus. [Learn more about North Carolina's growing energy industry.](#)

[Swiss firm starts work on \\$90 million Huntersville plant](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, April 5)

Perdue announces 170 jobs with HVM

Governor Bev Perdue announced March 30 that HVM, LLC, the manager of the largest company owned and operated chain of extended stay hotels in the U.S. and Canada, with 685 locations and 9,000 employees will move its national and



The 82nd Airborne Division Chorus performs for Experience N.C. attendees.

Site consultants 'Experience N.C.' this week

The N.C. Department of Commerce hosted 32 national site selection consultants in Pinehurst and Fort Bragg April 3-5 for the state's annual Experience N.C. event. The business and networking conference, sponsored by the [Friends of North Carolina](#) organization, provides these influential location specialists an opportunity to visit the state and meet local, regional and state economic development leaders. Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and developers from the Business & Industry Division welcomed the group during a Sunday evening reception held in several vintage rail cars provided by the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway.

This year's conference also featured a rare, behind-the-scenes tour of the Fort Bragg U.S. Army base. Consultants were able to experience up-close how soldiers are trained for dangerous combat and airborne missions. The group also learned more about business opportunities in the state related to the large presence of the military in North Carolina. Joy Thrash from the [N.C. Defense Business Association](#) also assisted with this event.

2011 SEUS/Japan conference postponed

The 35th Annual Joint Meeting between the Southeast and Japan has been postponed at the request of Japanese chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata. Katsumata, who assumed the

international corporate headquarters to Charlotte. The company plans to create 170 jobs over the next three years and will invest \$3.6 million in its headquarters facility. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Rod Forsythe was the developer on this project.

"A travel industry corporate headquarters is a perfect fit for North Carolina, with our steady and growing flow of visitors, corporate travelers and vacationers," Perdue said. "Not only will HVM use their Charlotte base to manage their 76,000 rooms across the country and Canada, they will also operate corporate training programs, aided by easy access to top flight educational resources. Once again, our investment in education pays off."

HVM was incorporated in Delaware in 1997 and is currently headquartered in Spartanburg, S.C. The company has managed Extended Stay Hotels since the 2004 merger of Extended Stay America, Inc. and Homestead Studio Suites. HVM manages 33 hotel facilities in North Carolina, with 438 current full- and part-time employees. The corporate headquarters will provide administrative support including human resources, facility maintenance, financial administration, advertising and marketing, guest services, training and legal services.

While individual wages for the 170 jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be \$83,580 a year, not including benefits. The Mecklenburg County average annual wage is \$51,584. [Read more.](#)

Aerospace Systems maker to add 25 jobs in Cleveland County

Governor Bev Perdue on April 4 announced that Curtiss-Wright Controls, a manufacturer and service provider for the aerospace and defense industries, will expand its facility in Cleveland County. The company plans to create 25 jobs and invest \$12.95 million during the next three years in Shelby. The project was made possible in part by a \$130,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

"Curtiss-Wright is bringing more 21st century jobs to our state and expanding North Carolina's growing aerospace cluster," said Perdue. "Like so many other companies, Curtiss-Wright sees the value of our skilled workforce and nationally acclaimed business climate. We're pleased to announce such terrific news from a company and an industry whose roots all come back to North Carolina, where two brothers -- namesakes of this company -- made the first flight on the Outer Banks."

Curtiss-Wright Controls is a segment of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation devoted to motion control systems required by the aerospace and defense industries. A new contract will allow the company to expand its Flight Systems units located in Gaston and Cleveland counties. The new investment will expand capabilities to rapidly machine, process, inspect, service and deliver critical components to regional and global customers. Headquartered in Charlotte, Curtiss-Wright Controls employs 307 in North Carolina, including 247 at the Shelby facility.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$50,354 plus benefits. The Cleveland County average annual wage is \$32,334. [Read more.](#)

leadership role for the Japan-Southeast United States Association in October 2010, also serves as the chairman of the Tokyo Electric Power Company. Last month's devastating earthquake and tsunami combined with damage to TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plants will be impacting the country for some time to come.

The Japanese have proposed the next SEUS/Japan conference be held in 2012 in Tokyo. The Joint Meeting would then return to the Southeast in 2013, where Mississippi will serve as the SEUS Host State.

For further information about North Carolina's participation in SEUS/Japan, contact David Rhoades in the N.C. Department of Commerce's Marketing Division at (919) 715-6556 or by email at drhoades@nccommerce.com.



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Trade Representatives Russ Sawchuck (Canada), Laura Camberos (Mexico) and Sumio Shibata (Japan) speak during a panel discussion at the 2011 Go Global Road Show in Cary.

Go Global Road Show focuses on international trade

The N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division during the week of March 28 held a series of panel discussions designed to teach North Carolina business owners about exporting. The Go Global Road Show took place in Wilmington on Monday, Greenville on Tuesday, Raleigh on Wednesday, Charlotte on Thursday and Winston-Salem on Friday. Commerce trade representatives based in Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China and Europe spoke about export opportunities, and conducted one-on-one consultations with export-ready companies.

State grant helps food packaging company stay in Edgecombe County

Governor Bev Perdue on April 4 announced that the food packaging company Ossid, a division of Pro Mach, will remain in



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Office of Science and Technology Director John Hardin and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll at the N.C. Nanotechnology Conference in Charlotte.

Office of Science and Technology wraps up successful nanotech conference

More than 230 people from 22 North Carolina cities, 10 states, and the United Kingdom attended the third annual N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference, which took place March 29-30 at UNC-Charlotte. North Carolina is a world leader in nanotechnology, the transformational science of custom-building ultra-precise materials, medicines and devices molecule by molecule to shape the clothes, treatments and machines of our future. The conference, with the theme "Nano: Technology Building Blocks," brought together entrepreneurs, scientists, funders, and others in the nanotech community to discuss commercialization of exciting new nanotech advances. Attendees discussed the burgeoning role of nanotechnology in fields ranging from biotechnology to electronics and materials to environmental clean-up. There were also sessions designed to help entrepreneurs learn about private and government funding, non-academic careers for scientists and intellectual property matters for entrepreneurs.

Keynote speakers included Dale Carroll, deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce, Travis Earles, assistant director for nanotechnology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Michael Bolick, the president of Lab 21 Ltd, a personalised medicine diagnostic specialist supporting healthcare providers and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and Doug Jamison, CEO of Harris & Harris, a publicly traded venture capital firm exclusively focused on investing in companies enabled by nanotechnology and microsystems. A key theme echoed by the speakers was how important innovative new technologies and companies are to the economic recovery and job creation of the future. The costs of this conference are paid for through registration fees and support from 19 sponsors and 20 exhibitors.

Speaker presentations and photographs from the conference will be available on [the N.C. Office of Science and Technology's web site](#) in the upcoming weeks. [Learn more about the conference.](#)

[Life sciences key to North Carolina nanotechnology sector](#) (MedCity News, March 31)

Edgecombe County, after the company actively explored moving to South Carolina. A grant from the One NC fund plus local matching grants will help the company retain 79 jobs at its Rocky Mount facility and create six new jobs. Retaining jobs is critical to Edgecombe County where the unemployment rate is currently 14.6 percent. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Jason Semple was the developer on this project.

According to the terms of the One NC grant, Ossid will retain 79 jobs, create six new jobs and the company will invest approximately \$850,000 over the next three years. The average annual wage of the six new jobs will be \$38,000 plus benefits. The Edgecombe County average annual wage is \$33,176. Ossid will be eligible for \$200,000 in benefits from the One NC fund, plus local matches, after they meet job creation, retention and investment targets. [Read more.](#)

N.C. to host National Industrial Forum in 2014

Governor Bev Perdue on March 31 announced that the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC) has selected Pinehurst to host the group's bi-annual meeting April 26-30, 2014.

The IAMC conference will provide an opportunity to showcase the state, giving North Carolina unique access to executives and economic developers across the nation who are key decision makers when businesses choose to expand or relocate their operations and where new jobs will be located.

"North Carolina is a premier location and we welcome these important decision makers to our state," said Bev Perdue. "This is a tremendous opportunity to highlight our top-ranked business climate, our well educated workforce, and our terrific quality of life to senior executives and economic developers from across the country."

The professional forum will bring more than 350 senior executive leaders from across the U.S. to Pinehurst. IAMC is considered the leading national association of industrial asset management executives, corporate real estate executives and economic developers. [Read more.](#)

[Pinehurst to host IAMC in 2014](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, March 31)

NC FIRST regional tourney begins this week

Fifty-two teams will participate in the 2011 FIRST Robotics Competition North Carolina Regional Tournament at Raleigh's Dorton



Nano-themed food, including "watermelon spritz pipette," "sushi chemical chain," "biofreeze shirmp" and "cold fusion crab shots," at the conference

Siemens Energy praises N.C.'s workforce in new video

Siemens Energy is currently undergoing a massive expansion of its 550,000-square-foot gas turbine manufacturing facility in Mecklenburg County. To fill the 226 new engineering and manufacturing positions, Siemens will rely on energy-focused training programs and research and development at North Carolina universities and community colleges.

"I believe what we are creating here in North Carolina is going to be a benchmark for the United States and maybe even the world," Mark Pringle, director of operations for Siemens Energy in Charlotte, says of the joint workforce training effort. [See the video.](#)

Albemarle-Pamlico estuary named one of 'America's Great Waters'

The Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, which covers parts of North Carolina and Virginia, has been selected as one of "America's Great Waters" by the National Wildlife Federation's Great Waters Coalition. Bodies of water earn the "America's Great Waters" designation because of their size, uniqueness, productivity and cultural importance. The Albemarle-Pamlico estuary earned its designation because it is the second largest estuary in the nation, supports abundant marine life and fisheries and enhances the region's tourism industry; in addition, it was named because of efforts to properly manage and protect the region's resources.

[Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary named one of 'America's Great Waters'](#) (WCTI-TV, March 2011)

Arena April 7-9.

[NC FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) engages, celebrates and inspires students as they discover they can be successful in science and technology and contribute meaningfully to the nation's technological enterprise.

The competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by Dean Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers, and a committee of engineers and other professionals.

[NC FIRST regional tourney starts Thursday in Raleigh](#) (WRALtechwire, April 4)

Year-to-date Metrics

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 - April 5, 2011

New projects assigned:	104
Projects announced:	44
Jobs created:	3,857
Capital invested:	\$764M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	395
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	5,796

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Symposium to help businesses get piece of military pie](#) (*The Pilot* - Southern Pines, March 30)
- [McIntyre hosts jobs summit](#) (WWAY-TV, March 29)
- [U.S. upholstery capacity grows](#) (*Furniture Today*, March 28)
- [Asheville area manufacturers are looking for employees](#) (*The Citizen-Times* - Asheville, March 26)

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Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

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