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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Jay Larranaga, Assistant Coach of the Boston Celtics; Jeff Edge, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; Governor Pat McCrory; Ric Elias, CEO of Red Ventures; and Uconda Dunn, N.C. Department of Commerce

Red Ventures to Create 580 Jobs with Charlotte Expansion

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced April 28 that Red Ventures will expand its operations in Mecklenburg County. The rapidly-growing technology and marketing company plans to create 580 new jobs in North Carolina over the next five years and invest more than \$2 million at its Charlotte location. [Uconda Dunn](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"Red Ventures and its team personify the classic American success story," said Governor McCrory. "They turned a small idea into a multi-hundred-million dollar business and became one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States. We look forward to seeing the entrepreneurial spirit of Red Ventures continue to flourish and play an active role in the Charlotte community."

Red Ventures currently has more than 1,900 employees and is headquartered in Indian Land, S.C., just two miles south of Charlotte. The company has been ranked among the top 10 'Best Places to Work' in the Charlotte region for five years running and has grown more than 30% every year for the last five years. The North Charlotte facility aims to employ a total of 700 people by 2018.

"North Carolina combines one of the strongest workforces in America with a highly respected university system," said Secretary Decker. "Red Ventures expansion is further proof that the Carolina Comeback is well underway with the promise of hundreds of new jobs."

India-Based Textile Company to Create 84 Jobs in Rockingham County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Shri Govindaraja (SGR) Textiles will be locating its textile operations in Rockingham County. The company plans to invest more than \$40 million and create 84 jobs over the next two years in Eden.

"We're committed to increasing the number of jobs through international cooperation," said Governor McCrory. "With a strong labor force and proximity to cotton-growing regions and ports, Shri Govindaraja Textiles will succeed in North Carolina."

Shri Govindaraja Textiles Private Limited (SGT) is a part of the Jayavilas Group in Aruppukottai, India. The group is the largest spinner in India with a total installed capacity of 1.1 million spindles and has a workforce of 30,000 employees.

"The company will not only buy North Carolina cotton, but will produce the combed yarn here as well," said Secretary Decker. "Innovative companies like SGR Textiles are bringing new machinery that will be put to good use by our talented workforce in Rockingham County."

SGT has 14 manufacturing units spread across two states in Southern India. The company has a capacity of 400,000 spindles installed with latest modern machineries. This helps the traditional textile company save labor costs and achieve better operational efficiency. The company manufactures combed/carded yarn ranging from 20s to 160s counts.

"SGT has decided to set up a state-of-the-art yarn manufacturing facility in Eden after an extensive search and comparative study that we undertook amongst nine different states and various counties," stated Ramkumar Varadarajan, managing director of SGR Textiles. "The input cost advantage and the skilled workforce present in Eden will aid in our successful implementation and operation of the project. I sincerely thank the support offered by the State Commerce Department, Eden City officials, US Commercial Service officials and the Consul General at the

"Our vision is to become the best place to work - not just in Charlotte - but on the East Coast," said Ric Elias, CEO of Red Ventures. "Our unique corporate culture, world-class facilities and unrivaled career opportunities will continue to make us a premier employer and bring top technology, sales and business talent to the Carolinas."

[Read more.](#)



Kevin Dollhoph (left), Vice-President, Worldwide Real Estate for Hanesbrands, Inc. with Governor McCrory at the IAMC 2014 Spring Forum in Pinehurst. Dollhoph served as the chair of North Carolina's Host Committee

Industrial Property and Facility Executives Mark Record Attendance at Pinehurst Conference

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker participated in the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC) 2014 Spring Forum, held April 26-30 in Pinehurst, N.C. Over 450 industrial asset management and corporate real estate executives were in attendance, a record-breaking number for the group's Forum events, held twice a year at locations across the country.

A North Carolina Host Committee provided sponsorship support for the conference and helped showcase the state's assets to this elite audience. Led by Kevin Dollhoph, Vice-President, Worldwide Real Estate for Hanesbrands, the committee included representatives from Duke Energy, ARCO Construction Company, Beacon Partners, Chamber Street Properties, ECS Carolinas, ElectricCities, Greensboro Partnership for Economic Development, Keith Corporation, NCEast Alliance, Red Rock Development, The Stump Corporation, Triad Commercial Properties, Wilson Economic Development Council, and Winston-Salem Business, Inc.

The IAMC Fall 2014 Forum will be held in Quebec City, Canada September 13-17.

American Consulate in Chennai, India for really helping us expedite the search, selection and commencement process."

Other partners that helped with this project include: The N.C. Community College System, Rockingham County Partnership for Economic & Tourism Development, Rockingham County and the Town of Eden.

[Read more.](#)

Plastic Film Manufacturer to Expand in Martin County, N.C.

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Syfan Manufacturing, Inc. is expanding its North Carolina manufacturing operations in Martin County. The company plans to create 24 new jobs and invest more than \$6.5 million over the next three years in Everetts.

"This is great news for Martin County and Eastern North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "Our talented workforce, high-quality education system, and pro-jobs policies continue to signal to the private sector that North Carolina is a great place to do business. We would like to thank Syfan for its investment and we look forward to watching them grow and expand here in North Carolina."

Syfan Manufacturing is a leading supplier of quality shrink & over-wrap films to the U.S. market, and is expanding local manufacturing capabilities in Everetts, North Carolina to further offer competitive pricing, excellent service and to support its broad customer base. Its plan is to add 50 percent to the present production. Syfan Manufacturing, Inc. currently employs 73 full-time workers in eastern North Carolina.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Martin Community College, Martin County, Martin County Economic Development and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

[Read more.](#)

N.C. Hosts Canadian Business Conference Next Week

More than 250 Canadian and U.S. business leaders will participate in the Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces Alliance Conference, being held at the Raleigh Convention Center. The three day conference opens Sunday, May 4.

Registration deadline is Friday, May 2nd. Individuals can still register online at www.seuscp.com.

The SEUS-CP is a strategic partnership



N.C. Commerce Asst. Secretary Pat Mitchell delivering her remarks during the Living Communities Partnership event, in West Jefferson, N.C.

Western N.C. Hosts ARC Program Staff and Federal Representatives

Leaders from Buncombe, Catawba, McDowell, Rutherford, and Wilkes counties hosted federal officials from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) April 16-17. Federal representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also participated in the visit.

Earl Gohl, ARC's Co-Chair and his Chief of Staff Guy Land joined Dr. Pat Mitchell, N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary on the two day tour of federally funded projects in western North Carolina. Mitchell, who leads the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce, was accompanied by North Carolina ARC program staff members Olivia Collier, Libby Smith and Kristy Carter

Moving across the western region, the group toured the Foothills Pilot Plant, a humane small animal processing plant located in Marion, and the Manufacturing Solutions Center, an innovative manufacturing research center located in Conover that is a partner in the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative.

Briefings from participants in the 2012 Rural Jobs and Innovation Grant program - a partnership between ARC, USDA and EDA were held at the Advantage West offices. The tour also included a visit to the Asheville GO (Green Opportunities) expansion site. This previously funded ARC project provides job training, community engagement, entrepreneurship and incubation, and capacity building to youth and adults living in poverty.

between states in the southeastern United States and member provinces from Canada. The alliance works to promote trade and investment opportunities between and among its member states and provinces. Member states include: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Member provinces include: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

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 - May 1, 2014

New projects assigned:	121
Projects announced:	39
Jobs announced:	2,724
Capital investment announced:	\$353M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	265
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	6,804

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [New \\$1.5 million marketing effort to create brand for N.C.](#) (News & Record - Greensboro May 1)
- [Triangle adds 7,700 jobs since February; 26,100 since last year](#) (Triangle Business Journal- April 29)
- [Jobs: Michigan tech firm relocates Raleigh office to accommodate growth - April 29\)](#)
- [It's official: Ralph Lauren to open large facility in new High Point corporate park](#) (Triad Business Journal- April 28)

(919) 733-4151

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Building Location:
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

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

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