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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce

Ammunition manufacturer to create 150 jobs in Robeson County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on May 15 that Cape Fear Arsenal Inc. will locate a new manufacturing facility in Robeson County. The company plans to create 150 jobs and invest more than \$15.2 million over the next three years in Lumberton. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project.

"Our state has a strong manufacturing legacy," said McCrory. "This new facility advances that legacy with an innovative process that will result in much-needed, well-paying jobs for workers in Robeson County."

Cape Fear Arsenal is a privately-held corporation focusing on providing high quality ammunition products in the Southeast U.S. Its products will be primarily sold to law enforcement. The company also anticipates bidding on contracts for the military and state agencies.

"Cape Fear Arsenal's decision to locate this facility in Robeson County is a big win for the region and state," said Decker. "Our commitment to spurring economic growth continues to bring good-paying, high-skilled jobs for North Carolina families."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$490,000. The One N.C. 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.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Robeson County, City of Lumberton, Robeson County Economic Development Commission and the Robeson County Committee of 100. [Read more.](#)

[Ammunition manufacturer, Cape Fear Arsenal, to create 150 jobs in Lumberton](#) (*The Fayetteville Observer*, May 15)



(Left-right) Syngenta Head of Biotechnology Michiel van Lookeren Campagne and Governor Pat McCrory tour Syngenta's new crop lab

Syngenta opens unique \$72 million Advanced Crop Lab

Syngenta unveiled its new crop research facility during a grand opening celebration on May 17 at the company's RTP Innovation Center. The first-of-its-kind, \$72 million Advanced Crop Lab allows company researchers to simulate any agricultural climate and precisely measure plant inputs - the key to helping farmers grow more food from fewer resources.

"Our new Advanced Crop Lab allows us to bring together components of all research where we can create environments for multiple crops from multiple regions — simultaneously," said Syngenta Head of Biotechnology Michiel van Lookeren Campagne. "Individual controls of temperature, light and carbon dioxide levels, as well as humidity control in many growth chambers, provide tailored environments that allow our talented researchers to work on specific grower challenges. In addition to innovative facilities, being in RTP, we have access to some of the greatest scientific minds to help farmers grow more from less."

Housing 30 climate-controlled growth environments in all-glass greenhouses, Syngenta can simulate conditions from Iowa in one room and from Africa right next to it. This flexibility allows company researchers to focus on developing agricultural traits that optimize crop yields, use resources efficiently and resist various stresses that farmers face every day across the globe.



(Left to right) Northampton County commissioners Fannie Greene and Virginia Spruill, Commissioner Chair Robert Carter, Enviva CEO John Keppler, Governor Pat McCrory, county economic development commissioner chair Dr. John Jones and state Rep. Michael Wray

Biomass energy company Enviva opens new wood pellet production facility in Northampton County

Monday (May 20), Governor Pat McCrory and John Keppler, the Chairman and CEO of biomass energy firm Enviva celebrated the grand opening of the company's newest wood pellet production facility in Northampton County. The facility, with the capacity to produce 500,000 metric tons of material a year, will have a significant economic impact in the region and employs 79 full time workers.

"Global demand for biomass energy is projected to increase substantially over the next decade," said Mr. Keppler. "Our manufacturing footprint in North Carolina plays an important role in meeting that demand and in delivering environmental and economic benefits both to our customers and to the region's forests, timber owners, and logging and manufacturing workforce."

"Enviva's decision to locate this facility in Northampton County is a big win for the region, the forest products industry and the State of North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "They are creating good jobs in a growing industry and represent exactly the kind of business North Carolina needs to continue to attract to our state."



Chen receives German Marshall Fund Fellowship

During the grand opening, Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, growers and many others toured the new plant research facility.

"Syngenta invests more than \$1.25 billion annually to directly focus on solving global challenges for farmers. As we consider global food security, the research conducted in our new crop lab will be essential to meet that demand," said Syngenta North America Region Director Vern Hawkins.

Design elements of the new facility include insulated glass walls that provide a virtually shadowless indoor environment, a liquid "fertigation" system to feed and water the plants and an automated roof-washing system. The building is Green Globes Certified, which recognizes the company's sustainable construction processes. In constructing the new facility, Syngenta reclaimed a former industrial site and recycled more than 85 percent of those materials.

The 136,000-square-foot facility is located within the 50-acre Syngenta RTP Innovation Center. Construction began in 2011 and was performed by nearly 300 local contractors, requiring roughly 500,000 man-hours to complete. Syngenta added 15 highly-skilled jobs to its existing RTP workforce.



Amtrak's Piedmont fastest-growing in U.S.

Amtrak's *Piedmont* train service was number one in the nation in growth within the Amtrak system during fiscal year 2012. According to Amtrak reports, March 2013 saw a 10 percent increase in *Piedmont* ridership over March 2012, and a 21 percent increase in revenue over the same period. *The Carolinian*, which saw a suspension of service for most of March last year for track work, had a 61 percent increase in ridership in March over last year, and a 90 percent increase in revenue. The Amtrak *Piedmont* train makes two round trips between Raleigh and Charlotte each day, and serves seven other North Carolina cities - Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis. The state-supported Amtrak *Carolinian* train also makes one round trip each day serving the same locations. Each year, more than 938,000 passengers ride

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Derek Chen has been awarded the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship for 2013. Chen is one of 44 emerging American leaders who received the award, presented by the German Marshall Fund of the U.S.

Founded in 1982, the Marshall Memorial Fellowship was developed to exchange ideas, solutions and best practices and facilitate a continuous evolution of networks and partnerships in a rapidly changing and intricate global environment.

The five-city, 24-day European fellowship program provides a unique opportunity for emerging leaders to focus on business, innovation, politics and social and cultural issues through experiential learning. The fellows will meet formally and informally with a wide range of political, financial and corporate decision-makers, and each fellow is given the opportunity to explore their professional interests with individual appointments in each city.

Chen, who serves as director of foreign operations for the International Trade Division at Commerce, is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and the University of North Carolina School of Law.

"I am honored to have been selected as a Marshall Memorial Fellow," Chen said. "I'm thrilled to learn more about these countries' strategies on trade and investment promotion, particularly in those industries in which I work. It's clear to me that there is a great deal of accrued knowledge that we can use to expand opportunities for our state's businesses in today's global economy."

Canadian tour operators experience Currituck, Dare counties

Earlier this month, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, along with the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau and Visit Currituck, hosted four Canadian tour operators and one Canadian airline host to Currituck and Dare counties. The group was impressed with the region's culture, coastal history, culinary offerings, outdoor adventures and vacation rentals found only in the Outer Banks. The familiarization tour consisted of hotel site inspections, hang-gliding, restaurant tours, lighthouses, beaches, a visit to the Wright Brothers National Memorial, and wild horse adventure tours. The State of North Carolina promises a distinctive experience to the Canadian traveler and can offer one-of-a-kind vacations.

The Division continues to educate and excite travel professionals and consumers throughout Canada, bringing more Canadians to the state year-round. Last year, nearly 450,000 Canadians visited the state, spending \$144.5 million dollars. For more information about any of the Division's international programs, contact [Heidi Walters](#) at (919) 715-6702.

Amtrak trains to and from destinations in North Carolina. The state has more than 3,300 miles of railroad tracks used by passenger and freight trains.

Boone ranked 4th for restaurant growth; Laurinburg and Kill Devil Hills also among top 10

Boone recently landed among the [top five cities in the nation](#) on Nielsen's annual [Restaurant Growth Index](#). According to the company, the Restaurant Growth Index, or RGI, "charts restaurant openings and sales to identify the nation's hottest markets." Boone landed at No. 4 on the list, behind Ocean Pines, Md., Findlay, Ohio, and Liberal, Kan. "Boone is a tourist destination, drawing 225,000 each year. It's also home to Appalachian State University, which has seen dramatic growth in the last decade and ranks in the top 5 percent for general business growth in Nielsen's BGI. The influx of students and tourists helped drive up its 2013 RGI score," an article by Nielsen's John Torres and Song Lin stated.

Laurinburg and Kill Devil Hills were also among the top 10, ranked #8 and #9, respectively. The index was based on total restaurant counts and sales for 2012, which are derived from data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, Nielsen and Infogroup. The Nielsen Company conducts market research to track consumer trends.

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 20, 2013

New projects assigned:	165
Projects announced:	47
Jobs announced:	6,888
Capital investment announced:	\$617M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	504
Calls to Business Link	8,332



The new Development North America facilities at Bayer CropScience in RTP

Bayer CropScience opens new Development North America facilities in RTP

With the expansion of its North American headquarters in Research Triangle Park, Bayer CropScience continues to develop sustainable solutions for farmers around the world as well as for the communities where we live, work and play. The crop protection company celebrated the opening of its new Development North America facilities and laboratories earlier this month. These facilities boast 40,000 square feet of space in which nearly 70 scientists will conduct crop protection and environmental science research, including pest and turf and ornamentals management. The renovations and remodeling, a combined investment of \$16.1 million, will allow Development North America to serve as the global center for seed growth formulations as well as the U.S. center for product safety and seed growth technology. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Dallas Hardenbrook](#) was the original developer working with Bayer CropScience.

"The agriculture community, professional pest managers and amateur gardeners stand to benefit greatly from expanded facilities and research capabilities," said Dr. Bob Graney, head of Development North America for Bayer CropScience. "The concentration of innovation and development efforts at the Research Triangle Park campus will allow Bayer CropScience to leverage knowledge and increase collaborations among scientists to grow a healthier world in which we live, work and play."

During the opening celebration, Graney was joined by Dr. Adrian Percy, global head of regulatory affairs, and Development North America employees as they demonstrated the role that the facilities and laboratories will play in Bayer CropScience's overall research and development strategy. In addition to studying seed growth, scientists will work with some of agriculture's brightest minds on human and environmental safety.

Development activities in the new facilities include testing and developing new chemistries for seed growth formulations and performing a range of safety studies to ensure Bayer CropScience products are safe both to the environment and consumers. Dedicated laboratory space will also allow for research on formulations to protect homes, businesses and recreational areas from a variety of pests. [Read more.](#)

N.C.:

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Raleigh teams break ground on Fayetteville call center building](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, May 16)
- [N.C. Biotech Center awards \\$2.5M in 1Q grants, loans](#) (*WRAL Tech Wire*, May 16)
- [Thomas Built Buses invests \\$2M in manufacturing equipment](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, May 16)
- [World comes to Cabarrus for May race weeks](#) (*The Independent Tribune - Concord*, May 15)
- [AT&T hiring 400 in N.C., 60 in the Triangle](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, May 13)
- [Picture-perfect town stars in 'Safe Haven'](#) (*The Boston Globe*, May 12)
- [Employer issues are addressed](#) (*Wilkes Journal-Patriot*, May 10)
- [St. Pauls gets \\$50K grant for improvements](#) (*St. Pauls Review*, May 9)

Building Location:

(919) 733-4151

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

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

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