

syncTM

Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue at the Lenovo announcement.

Lenovo expansion in RTP to bring 300 jobs

Lenovo announced May 20 that it has signed a contract with Affiliated Computer Services Inc., a Xerox Company, as part of an initiative to expand its Global Services business. The agreement will create approximately 300 new jobs in North Carolina's Research Triangle region - 50 of those with Lenovo and 250 with ACS.

"Lenovo exemplifies how the state of North Carolina and a global company started in China can mutually benefit from the high-tech, highly innovative workforce we've cultivated here in the Triangle region," said Gov. Bev Perdue. "Not only does this business expansion bring significant new employment opportunities to North Carolinians, but it will create a larger ripple effect across our state's economy. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and Syngenta Biotechnology President Michiel van Lookeren Campagne.

Syngenta announces \$71M expansion

Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. has announced plans to begin construction on a \$71 million state-of-the-art biotechnology research facility in Research Triangle Park.

Building on recent successes in delivering agronomic traits for growers, the new 147,000 square foot research and development complex will provide Syngenta researchers the environment to pursue new traits that will help farmers grow more from less.

The new site will include all-glass, climate-controlled greenhouses and precision growth chambers, which, borrowing from technology developed by NASA, will offer complete control of multiple growth variables, including water, nutrients, light and atmospheric gases.

"We're very excited about the capabilities this new facility will enable," said Michiel van Lookeren Campagne, president of Syngenta Biotechnology. "These sophisticated growth environments will help our researchers study traits with greater precision and efficiency, ultimately leading to discoveries that will enhance plant productivity." [Read more.](#)

Kiplinger.com names Charlotte a top city for college graduates

A healthy local economy and low cost of living make Charlotte a top city for college



(Left-right) Wilmington Industrial Development CEO Scott Satterfield, the late CP&L CEO L.V. Sutton's grandson Dr. L.V. Sutton III, N.C. Representative Thom Goolsby, Progress Energy Carolinas Eastern Region VP Bob McCall, New Hanover County Commission Chairman Jonathan Barfield Jr., Progress Energy Carolinas CEO Lloyd Yates, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Progress Energy Executive VP for Energy Supply Jeff Lyash, N.C. Representative Susi H. Hamilton

Progress Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas announce more than \$800M of infrastructure for southeastern N.C.

On May 20, Progress Energy held a groundbreaking for its new 620-megawatt combined-cycle power plant at the L.V. Sutton Energy Complex near Wilmington. The ceremony for the natural gas-fired plant included state and local officials, and company executives. The plant represents a projected investment of about \$600 million. It is expected to create more than 700 construction jobs over the 24-month building process. Piedmont Natural Gas is building a major gas pipeline to the site at an estimated cost in excess of \$200 million, enhancing gas supply to the region.



Governor Bev Perdue at the Alexandria Ag-Tech Center announcement.

New ag-tech center announced

For years companies such as Syngenta, BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Monsanto and Novozymes, working closely with the state government and other groups, have created a thriving biotech industry in North Carolina. In fact, nearly 70 ag-biotech firms already employ approximately 4,000 workers in North Carolina. To support research and development for the ag-

graduates, according to a study by Kiplinger.com. The website touts Charlotte's "rebounding economy" and calls the city a "cost-of-living bargain compared to other major cities."

To determine its 10 Great Cities for College Grads list, Kiplinger looked at factors such as cost of rent and overall cost of living, public transportation, culture, nightlife and the percentage of individuals aged 20 to 24--important considerations for companies seeking a talented, highly educated workforce.

"Charlotte is the second-largest banking center in the country, and it has the jobs to prove it: Wells Fargo and Bank of America rank among the city's top employers," says Kiplinger.com. "Charlotte's diversified economy has also seen gains in fields such as aviation, defense, bioscience and energy production, and the city added 4,900 private-sector jobs last year alone. US Airways Group has its headquarters here. Low rents and living costs combined with a glitzy, developing uptown district make it worth a look." [Read more.](#)

N.C. bio companies raised more than \$1.1B over the last year

Data recently released from the N.C. Biosciences Organization show that North Carolina bioscience companies are thriving. Over the past 12 months, life science companies in North Carolina received more than \$1.1 billion in grants and investments, a 25 percent increase over the previous 12-month period.

"This economic expansion is the result of North Carolina's 25-year commitment to nurturing its life science cluster," NCBIO President Sam Taylor said in a letter to North Carolina lawmakers. "NCBIO is grateful that this commitment is continuing, and we urge the General Assembly to stay the course."

While the NCBIO report includes equity investments, licensing payments, grants and investments for buildings and equipment, the majority of the \$1.1 billion stemmed from equity investments. [Read more.](#)

biotech sector, Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc., along with help from the [N.C. Biotechnology Center](#), is building the Alexandria Ag-Tech Center, a research and development facility near Research Triangle Park.

The 50,000-square-foot Alexandria Ag-Tech Center will feature an 18,000-square-foot greenhouse research area that will be divided into individual greenhouse modules, support areas and other amenities for multiple biotech tenants. Each greenhouse facility will feature separate environmental controls, planting and support areas.

"As complex environmental issues--like the growing world population, limits to world food supply, shrinking natural resources, and the need to develop green technologies--become increasingly urgent, the new Ag-Tech Center along with North Carolina's commitment to education, innovation and agribusiness will ensure that our state plays a vital role in tackling those challenges," said Governor Bev Perdue. [Learn more.](#)

Commerce attends AWEA Windpower Conference

Consultants and their clients working in the wind energy industry are invited to meet North Carolina officials next week at the [WINDPOWER 2011](#) trade show, being held in Anaheim, Calif., May 22-25. The North Carolina exhibit is located in Booth 3901.

North Carolina is particularly well positioned to offer a competitive advantage to developers and manufacturers serving the emerging offshore wind industry. North Carolina has the largest wind resource on the east coast of the United States according to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The state's strong commitment to a green energy economy has led North Carolina to have the first and only Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard in the Southeast. That, along with some of the best tax credits for renewable energy in the nation, has helped North Carolina assume a leadership position in the industry.

In addition, major wind energy companies Iberdrola and Invenergy have confirmed plans to develop 300MW wind projects in onshore locations in eastern North Carolina.

NC unemployment holds steady at 9.7 percent

The state's unemployment rate held steady in April, remaining at 9.7 percent for the second month in a row.

New figures released today by the [N.C. Employment Security Commission](#) showed that the state added 2,900 nonfarm jobs during April.

[N.C. unemployment holds steady at 9.7 percent](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, May 20)

Technimark to Add 30 Jobs in Randolph County

Governor Bev Perdue on May 19 announced that Technimark, a provider of plastic injection molding services, will expand in Randolph County. The company plans to create 30 jobs and invest \$20 million during the next four years in Asheboro. The project was made possible in part by a \$60,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Jan Critz was the developer on this project.

"Technimark knows North Carolina, and they know the enormous advantages of our state's educated and skilled workforce -- a direct result of our investments in education," said Perdue. "We are committed to educating the workforce of tomorrow, and Technimark's large investment and new jobs, paying more than double the county average, demonstrate Technimark's commitment to North Carolina and the Asheboro community."

Technimark is a global provider of plastic injection molding and assembly services for consumer packaging, cosmetics and medical devices. Technimark's customers include Fortune 500 companies such as Wal-Mart, Procter & Gamble, Estee Lauder and Black & Decker. With its global headquarters in Asheboro, Technimark has 10 manufacturing locations in the U.S., Germany, Mexico and China. The Randolph County headquarters and manufacturing facility currently employs 639 workers. This new project will add 30 skilled professionals and capital equipment to handle the requirements of new customers.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$61,333 plus benefits. The Randolph County average annual wage is \$29,952. [Read more.](#)

[Manufacturer's expansion to create 30 jobs in Randolph County](#) (WGHP - High Point, May 19)

Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award applications due May 31

The League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners are helping the NC Commerce Community Development Division promote a new program called the Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award. [Learn more.](#)

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



Video: EMC and the low cost of operating in N.C.

EMC Corporation VP of North Carolina Operations Bob Hawkins talks about the low cost of operating in North Carolina in the latest Thrive video. He describes how affordable energy coupled with a temperate climate makes North Carolina an ideal location for data centers. [See the video.](#)

Onslow Farmer's Market uses grant to go green

The Onslow County Farmer's Market will install 30 solar panels on its roof thanks to a \$24,000 grant from the Green Business Fund. The fund is administered through the N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology.

[Onslow County Farmers' Market goes 'green' with solar panels](#) (News 14 Carolina, May 4)

Crisco participates in ED video series

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco recently participated in a video series on economic development efforts in the Cape Fear region. The six-part series began airing on May 20 and runs through August on Government Television. Crisco is featured in Part 3, which first airs on June 17. It also features Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton and N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda Carlisle. [Learn more.](#)

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 24, 2011

New projects assigned:	149
Projects announced:	74
Jobs created:	7,075
Capital invested:	\$1.09B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	620
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	8,499

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [10 N.C. colleges make green list](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, May 23)
- [Central NC wraps up study of natural gas deposits](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, May 22)
- [FRIDAY INTERVIEW: Four Questions For Brian O'Hara](#) (Offshore Wind Wire, May 20)
- [N.C. jobless rate unchanged at 9.7 percent](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, May 20)
- [DuPont CEO to speak at Fayetteville Works site](#) (*The Fayetteville Observer*, May 16)

(919) 733-4151

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

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

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

[Invite a Friend](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Subscribe](#) | feedback@nc-sync.com | [SYNC archive](#)

