



Attending the Paris Air Show are (left-right) Chris Plate', Executive Director of Monroe-Union County Economic Development; North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla; Rich Harshman, Chairman, President and CEO of ATI; and Hunter Dalton, Executive Vice President, ATI High Performance Specialty Materials Group



A thumbs up from N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla signals a successful week for North Carolina at the Paris Air Show

ATI Expansion to Add 70 New Jobs in Union County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced June 16 that Allegheny Technologies Incorporated will be constructing a new manufacturing facility adjacent to its current site in Union County. The expansion will create 70 new jobs over the next three years with a company investment of \$69.8 million in the City of Monroe.

"North Carolina's aerospace sector is one of our state's best employers," said Governor McCrory. "It is exciting to see this growth in an industry that will help map the course of North Carolina's economy for the future."

Allegheny Technologies, based in Pittsburgh, P.A., is one of the world's largest and most diversified specialty materials and components producers. ATI's major markets include aerospace and defense, oil and gas/chemical process industry, electrical energy, medical, automotive, food equipment and appliance, and construction and mining.

Secretary Skvarla met with Richard J. Harshman, Chairman, President and CEO of ATI and Hunter R. Dalton, Executive Vice President, ATI High Performance Specialty Materials Group last week at the International Paris Air Show, the world's oldest and largest air show held on the tarmac at Le Bourget Airport.

"ATI is one of Union County's largest employers, and this

N.C.'s Aerospace Advantages Showcased at Industry's Largest Trade Show

The Paris Air Show, the largest gathering of aerospace industry executives in the world drew an estimated 351,000 people to Le Bourget field on the outskirts of the French capital last week. North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla led a state delegation organized by the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC).

This marked the eighth year North Carolina mounted a presence at the major international air shows held in Europe, which rotate between Paris and the United Kingdom each year.

During the show, Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI) announced plans to construct a new manufacturing facility adjacent to its current site in Union County (see related story, left). Monroe-Union County Economic Development, one of the state partners assisting ATI, also sponsored the North Carolina exhibit within the U.S. Pavilion at the show.

Other sponsors of the North Carolina exhibit included C.R. Onsrud, Greensboro Partnership Economic Development, KBR Building Group, North State Aviation, N.C. East Alliance and WestStar Precision. EDPNC also supported IOMAX at the show.

added commitment to the area helps build on North Carolina's aerospace industry," said Secretary Skvarla. "It is vital that our existing industries continue to grow and expand."

Dalton noted, "For over 50 years we have had an operating base in North Carolina and have successfully executed multiple aerospace materials expansion projects. We are pleased that the economic development and public sector leadership of the State of North Carolina, Union County and the City of Monroe continue to recognize ATI as a valued corporate partner as ATI, once again, expands our Monroe area operations."

"The positive business environment and employee work ethic in the region were key factors in the selection of Union County for the expansion," said Harshman. "These favorable conditions enable us to focus on growing our product portfolio to create value for our global customers and shareholders, and execute our strategy to enhance our specialty materials capabilities with a relentless focus on innovation. Our confidence in North Carolina is validated by our investment that now exceeds \$300 million dollars during the last decade."

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](#), [Golden Leaf Foundation](#), [Monroe-Union County Economic Development](#), [Union County](#), and the [City of Monroe](#).

[Read more.](#)



Proto Labs, Inc. Expansion to Add 170 New Jobs in Wake County

Proto Labs Inc., a leading online and technology-enabled manufacturer of custom parts for prototyping and short-run production will be expanding in Wake County, creating 170 new jobs over the next five years. The company plans to invest in excess of \$25 million in the Town of Cary over the same period.

"Proto Labs is one of those 21st century companies that is helping North Carolina stay on the cutting edge of technology and innovation," said Governor Pat McCrory. "By more than doubling its workforce, the company is demonstrating that nothing compares to North Carolina when it comes to being a great place for innovative ideas."

The Cary location will house the company's expanded additive manufacturing (commonly called 3D printing) operation. Proto Labs currently has 106 employees in Wake County.

"North Carolina and the Research Triangle region continue to be leaders in attracting top-notch technology companies either for relocation or expansion," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "This expansion by Proto Labs helps in solidifying that reputation."

"Since the launch of 3D printing at Proto Labs, we've increased our capabilities here in the U.S. and we've also introduced our additive manufacturing services in Europe," explained Rob

Aviation and aerospace are key sectors in North Carolina's economy, employing more than 10,000 people in the industry's supply chain located in the state.

Blue Bloodhound, LP to Bring 191 New Jobs to Catawba County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced today (June 23) that Blue Bloodhound, LP is establishing operations in Catawba County and plans to create 191 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$400,000 in the city of Hickory over the same period.

"When companies such as Blue Bloodhound make the decision to locate in North Carolina, it furthers our quest to become the technology center of the Southeast," said Governor McCrory. "This is a cutting-edge company with exciting new technology to help the nation's trucking industry be more efficient."

Blue Bloodhound, LP has developed proprietary software that will assist truck drivers with maintaining safety records, remind them of renewal deadlines, and locate job opportunities for Class A and B drivers.

"The trucking industry is a vital part of the economy both here in North Carolina and across the country," said Secretary Skvarla. "Blue Bloodhound has developed a great tool to increase the efficiency of the industry. I am glad the company will be calling North Carolina its home."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$305,600. In addition, the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority has awarded the City of Hickory a Building Reuse Program grant in the amount of \$259,400 to support the reuse of the historic Moretz Mills building, constructed in 1929. Blue Bloodhound will lease the second floor space that has been vacant for three years.

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 the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation](#), [Catawba County](#), and the [City of Hickory](#).

[Read more.](#)

Carolina Nonwovens Expanding and Doubling Workforce in

Connelly, Proto Labs' VP of Additive Manufacturing. "Our state-of-the-art facility in North Carolina will be a critical driver in advancing 3D printing in the U.S. and globally for many years to come."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$150,000.

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: [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), [Capital Area Workforce Development Board](#), [Cary Chamber of Commerce](#), [Cary Economic Development](#), and the [Town of Cary](#).

[Read more.](#)

New Round of Rural Grants Will Mean More Than 1,300 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 15 grants or loans on June 18, totaling more than \$6 million with the commitment of 1,322 new jobs.

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

- **City of Lexington (Davidson County):** \$750,000 loan to Masterbrand Cabinets to support the reuse of a vacant industrial building located at the Sapona Business Park. The company will invest \$8 million in the renovation and new equipment and has committed to creating 38 new jobs.
- **City of Lexington (Davidson County):** \$750,000 to lend to Piedmont Candy to support the reuse of an industrial building vacant for ten years. The company will invest \$12 million and create 38 new jobs.
- **Town of Mocksville (Davie County):** \$221,760 to construct 732 linear feet of rail spur to support an expansion of Avgol American's existing manufacturing plant. The company has committed to create 50 jobs.
- **City of Asheboro (Randolph County):** \$490,000 to provide two rail spurs that will allow Technimark to construct a new 153,000 square foot manufacturing plant. Technimark is the fourth largest employer in Randolph County and will employ 163 people at the new plant and invest \$30 million for construction and new equipment.
- **Robeson County:** \$240,000 to construct 2,100 linear foot rail spur to allow Asbury Carbons to locate at the vacant Fex Straw plant and create 16 new jobs.
- **Town of St. Pauls (Robeson County):** \$1,000,000 to provide public sewer service to a proposed new poultry processing plant to be constructed by Sanderson Farms. CDBG funds will be used to upgrade collection lines and pump stations that directly service the plant. Sanderson Farms has committed to creating 900 new jobs.

The Industrial Development Fund Utility Account grants approved include:

- **Robeson County:** \$208,000 to assist with a rail siding on behalf of Asbury Carbons. The company has committed to creating 16 new jobs. The same jobs committed for this project are also committed for the CDBG program.
- **Town of Murfreesboro (Hertford County):** \$602,000

Catawba County

Carolina Nonwovens, LLC will be expanding its facilities in North Carolina and doubling its workforce with the creation of 35 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$12.25 million in the town of Maiden over the same period.

"Carolina Nonwovens is a homegrown company in one of North Carolina's traditional manufacturing industries," said Governor Pat McCrory. "This expansion shows that North Carolina is still attracting state-of-the-art manufacturers that make products that have been part of our industrial fabric for centuries."

Carolina Nonwovens is a subsidiary of Washington, N.C. based National Spinning Company, a traditional textile manufacturer in the state since the 1950s. National Spinning acquired Carolina Nonwovens in 2012 and has since tripled its workforce to today's 24 hour/seven day a week operation. Its customers include Fortune 100 companies requiring high-quality nonwoven solutions. The company currently has 32 employees in North Carolina who make nonwoven fabrics of various thicknesses used to replace foam in outdoor cushions and bedding; noise-dampening insulation in automobiles and appliances; and many other industrial applications. The majority of these products are made with recycled raw materials. The company's expansion includes an investment in state of the art technology, enabling an even broader range of products.

"We want our manufacturers to expand at home in North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "Carolina Nonwovens will double its employment here because nothing compares to our highly skilled workforce and our great textile heritage."

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 the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Duke Energy](#), [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation](#), [Catawba County](#), and the [Town of Maiden](#).

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(Left-right) Trey Paris, U.S. Manager, State

to assist with the construction of a new potable well. Student enrollment at Chowan University has doubled in recent years, increasing the demand on the town's water supply which limits the town's ability to develop available industrial and brownfield sites.

- **Town of Elizabethtown (Bladen County):** \$417,103 to assist with phase 1 of a two phase airport industrial park expansion. The first phase includes a taxiway extension and extending an access road to newly acquired parcels.

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

- **The City of Morganton (Burke County):** \$410,000 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 1963 and occupied by Duralee Fine Furniture for the last 10 years. The company has committed to creating 41 new jobs.
- **Duplin County:** \$106,218.10 to support the reuse of a building in Warsaw constructed in 1990 and vacant for five years. Villari Bros. Foods aims to utilize the space. The company currently operates a facility in Warsaw but there are no expected changes to employment and no closures anticipated at the current locations.
- **The City of Cherryville (Gaston County):** \$133,021 to support the reuse of a building constructed in 1954 and vacant for three years. Modern Polymers, Inc. is an expanded polymers molding company serving the automotive and housing industries. The company has committed to creating 11 new jobs.
- **Granville County:** \$200,000 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 2003 and occupied by NT Techno USA for the last 11 years. NT Techno USA develops precision tooling systems for manufacturers in the automotive, aerospace, medical, and die mold industries. The company has committed to creating 20 new jobs.
- **Macon County:** \$87,777 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 1947 occupied since then by Nantahala Meats. Brasstown Beef, LLC has acquired the assets of Nantahala Meats and will continue meat processing operations in the facility. The company and its sister company, Ridgeland Farm, currently operate a facility in Brasstown. There are no expected changes to employment and no closures anticipated at the current location. The company has committed to creating nine new jobs.
- **Rockingham County:** \$500,000 to support the expansion of a building constructed in 1917 and occupied by Karastan Rug Mills, a division of Mohawk Industries, for the last 87 years. The company has committed to creating 40 new jobs.
- **The Town of North Wilkesboro (Wilkes County):** \$62,500 to support the reuse of a building constructed in 1965 and vacant for three years. Cub Creek Kitchens and Baths manufactures and installs countertops and shower enclosures. The company has committed to creating five new jobs.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state.



For information on how to leverage these grant programs for your community, [contact our team at the Department of Commerce.](#)

Government Affairs for GE; Lew Ebert, President & CEO, N.C. Chamber; Bob Gilligan, CEO of GE's Industrial Solutions business; N.C. Representative Graig Meyer; Jeff Blakeman, Mebane plant manager, GE; Stuart Thompson, General Manager Power Equipment, GE; and Susan Fleetwood, Chief Liaison, N.C. Commerce

GE Opens New Center in Mebane with \$6 Million Investment

GE celebrated the grand opening of a new advanced manufacturing and customer experience center in its Mebane facility June 9. GE leaders and customers throughout the U.S. and Canada were joined by state and local government representatives and the media for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"GE's 43-year presence in North Carolina speaks volumes about the company's commitment to the state and its workforce," said Governor Pat McCrory in a prepared statement. "This latest investment reinforces GE's desire to continue to be a strong part of North Carolina's economy."

Susan Fleetwood, Commerce's Chief Economic Development Liaison represented the department at the event.

[Read more.](#)

Town of Warrenton Receives Money from Main Street Solutions Fund

North Carolina Commerce announced June 17 that the Town of Warrenton has been awarded up to \$50,000 from the Main Street Solutions Fund.

"The North Carolina Main Street Center continues to be a great way to provide assistance to revitalize communities throughout the state," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "We are pleased to not only preserve historic buildings in Warrenton but also to help create new jobs."

"The project in Warrenton expands an existing quilting shop and training center that attracts students from North Carolina and Virginia," said Liz Parham, North Carolina Main Street Center Director. "With this grant the business now has a campus of three historic buildings in downtown Warrenton."

Warrenton, along with other Main Street and Small Town Main Street communities in North Carolina, is successfully following the principles of the National Main Street Center's Four-Point Approach to downtown revitalization. North Carolina Main Street and Small Town Main Street have experienced 2.2 billion in public and private investment and a net gain of more than 19,000 jobs

[Read more.](#)

since the inception of the program in 1980.



For additional information about the Main Street Solutions Fund, visit nccommerce.com/MainStreet, or contact Ed Davis, Grants Administrator at 919 715-0531.

[Read more.](#)

N.C. in the News

- [Chris Chung: NC Strong in Economic Development, but Could Be Stronger](#) (*Salisbury Post* - June 21)
- [North Carolina wins 2015 Silver Shovel Award for Economic Development](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - June 18)
- [Triad Manufacturer Adds 150 Workers as Part of \\$12M Expansion](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - June 17)
- [\[Op-Ed\] N.C. Urgently Needs Back Into the Incentives Game](#) (*Charlotte Observer* - June 17)
- [N.C. cities approve \\$1.2B deal with Duke Energy; sale could close soon](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - June 17)
- [What Will It Take to Drive Economic Development in the Charlotte Region? Task Force Has Some Answers](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - June 12)
- [Guess What South Carolina and Washington State Have in Common](#) (*Charleston Regional Business Journal* - June 9)

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