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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Mebane Town Councilman Tim Bradley, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Mebane Town Councilwoman Jill Auditori at the Nypro event (Photo courtesy Karen Carter/Mebane Enterprise)

## Nypro switches on solar array at Mebane plant

On May 19, Nypro held an event at its Mebane plastics manufacturing facility to switch on their new roof-top solar array and vertical wind turbines. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll joined local elected officials and Nypro executives at the event and publicly thanked the company for its commitment to renewable energy. Morrisville-based Southern Energy Management designed and installed the rooftop solar array. [Learn more.](#)



North Carolina representatives at International Pow Wow in San Francisco included Charmaine Singh with the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development's Canadian office; Sam Hancock, with the Division's U.K. office, the Division's International Marketing Manager Heidi Walters; N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Marketing & Global Branding Lynn Minges; Visit Charlotte's Brandy Larrick, Outer Banks VB's Lorrie Love, Biltmore's Leslie Brewer; and Asheville CVB's Dianna Pierce.

## Tourism promotes N.C. at International Pow Wow

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development, along with industry partners from the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, Visit Charlotte, the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau and Biltmore, promoted North Carolina at the U.S. Travel Association's International Pow Wow in San Francisco, May 21-25. The group met with more than 60 tour operators and journalists. This international travel tradeshow brought more than 5,000 international tour operators, journalists and destinations from all over the world to the United States for three days of intensive pre-scheduled business appointments with more than 1,000 U.S. travel destinations and businesses from across the nation.



(Left-right) Tom McGowen, partner, Stout, Stuart, McGowen & King; Tracy Dellinger, N.C. Department of Commerce Business and Industry Division; John Currin, president and CEO, Alamance Regional Medical Center; Randy Perkins, owner, Prime Personnel Resources; Tony Brandewie, VP of Plant Operations, Honda Aero; Ellen Tai, B&I; Steve Brantley, B&I; Jan Critz, B&I; Garrett Wyckoff, B&I; Melissa Smith, B&I; Susan Fleetwood, B&I; Martyn Johnson, B&I; and Mac Williams, president, Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce

## B&I reaches out to Alamance County

Representatives from The N.C. Department of Commerce's Business and Industry Division visited Alamance County June 6 to tour the community's assets. The community outreach tour featured several available buildings and sites throughout the county, and community assets such as Alamance Community College, Elon University and the Burlington Municipal airport. A highlight of the day was a facility tour of Honda Aero's corporate headquarters and the company's jet engine manufacturing operation.

## International micro-nano conference to take place in Greensboro

The 2011 [Commercialization of Micro-Nano Systems Conference](#) will take place in Greensboro Aug. 28-31. The conference's [sponsors](#) include the N.C. Department of Commerce, The Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, and The Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology. Plenary speakers are Dr. Anthony Atala from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Joseph DeSimone, chancellor's eminent professor of chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill, and Paul M. Zavracky, president of North American and European operations for the MEMSIC Corp.



Guy Gaster of the N.C. Film Office (right) speaks to an attendee at the Produced By Conference and Association of Film Commissioners International Locations Tradeshow.

## Film Office takes N.C. to L.A.

The N.C. Film Office and Regional Film Commissions participated in the annual Producers Guild of America's [Produced By Conference and Association of Film Commissioners International Locations Tradeshow](#), June 3-5 in Burbank, Calif. The Produced By Conference assembles the best and brightest in film to speak, mentor and educate on the latest developments in finance, production, distribution, branding and digital media. The conference is the only one of its kind that includes sessions on every aspect of producing a film or television show. The conference attracts over 1,100 industry leaders annually.

This year, the AFCI joined the PGA's show by hosting its Locations Tradeshow – the largest worldwide gathering of film commissioners - in conjunction with the conference. This partnership gave the N.C. Film Office and its regional partners the chance to interact with established producers, emerging filmmakers, location personnel and industry executives all in one location. North Carolina had two booths, which were branded with the state's "Relax" marketing campaign and touted the new 25 percent incentive while promoting North Carolina's talented crew base, infrastructure and vast assortment of locations. In addition to the conference, members of the North Carolina team met with production companies and industry decision makers about current and future projects shooting in North Carolina.

## Study: N.C. is a hot spot for



Attendees at Marketplace

## Marketplace takes place in RTP

[Marketplace](#), a biennial regional "reverse" trade show that highlights procurement opportunities for small businesses, took place June 1 at the Sheraton Imperial in Research Triangle Park. The Marketplace conference allowed small business owners the opportunity to meet face-to-face with contracting officers from over 50 federal, state and local government agencies and large prime contractors such as Lockheed Martin, SAS and CREE.

Marketplace has been held in RTP every other year since 1989, and each time is hosted by North Carolina representatives from the U.S. Congress. This year was no exception with U.S. Representative Brad Miller and U.S. Representative David Price hosting in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Small Business and Technology Development Center's [Procurement Technical Assistance Program](#). In alternating years, the Asheville-based [Opportunities](#) tradeshow is held.

This year, Marketplace topped 500 attendees, many of whom represented small- to mid-sized businesses. These business owners had the chance to market their goods or services to federal, state and local governments and prime contractors in one day with one sales call; attend a series of seminars designed to provide the latest information on doing business with the government; heard prime contractors discussing subcontractor needs and respond to questions concerning the procurement opportunities they offer; and enjoy a keynote address by Bob Perciasepe, the deputy administrator of the EPA. North Carolina's Commissioner for Small Business, Scott Daugherty, was master of ceremonies. Organizations providing procurement counseling and access to other assistance services were also available, including the [SBTDC](#) and the N.C. Department of Commerce's [Business Link North Carolina](#).

More than 500 attendees at this year's Marketplace trade show had the opportunity to discuss contracting opportunities with more than 50 government agencies and major prime contractors.

## smart grid firms

A study prepared for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and funded by N.C. State University's Institute for Emerging Issues faculty fellows program found that North Carolina is a hub for smart grid companies.

The report, titled *Smart Grid: Core Firms in the Research Triangle Region, N.C.*, states, "The Research Triangle Region and state of North Carolina have a unique opportunity not only to invent, manufacture and sell smart grid technologies to the world, but also to apply them at home. The merger of Duke Energy and Progress Energy, creating the nation's largest utility, may offer economies of scale that can facilitate smart grid deployment." [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 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 - June 7, 2011

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| New projects assigned:                      | 156     |
| Projects announced:                         | 79      |
| Jobs created:                               | 7,326   |
| Capital invested:                           | \$1.26B |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 716     |
| Calls to Business Link N.C.:                | 9,080   |

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Chancellor Frank Brogan of Florida: State, universities need to align with business -- Calls out North Carolina as a model of economic transformation](#) (*Sunshine State News*, June 3)
- [State's economy grows, but slowly](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, June 3)



### Video: Sabo USA and N.C.'s commitment to the auto industry

Reinaldo Panico Peres, executive vice president of Sabo USA talks about support for the automotive industry from both the local and state governments in North Carolina. Sabo USA operates a facility located in Lincolnton. [See the video.](#)

- [Area beaches report busy Memorial Day weekend](#) (*The Jacksonville Daily News*, June 2)
- [Caterpillar Inc. to hold 1st job fair for its Winston-Salem plant](#) (*Winston-Salem Journal*, June 1)
- [RTP's Medicago begins construction, hiring](#) (*Durham Herald-Sun*, June 1)
- [Greenhouse and power plant would open with 300 workers, it says](#) (*The Winston-Salem Journal*, May 31)

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