

syncTM

Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce

Wright Foods to Create 505 Jobs in Montgomery County Expansion

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Monday (July 15) that Wright Foods will be expanding its food processing and packaging operation in Montgomery County. The company plans to create 505 new jobs and invest \$53 million over the next five years in Troy. Wright Foods currently employs more than 80 employees in North Carolina.

"One of my top priorities is helping existing businesses grow and expand their operations in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "It's always encouraging when homegrown companies choose to reinvest in our state."

Wright Foods is a food processing company that utilizes state-of-the-art technology developed at N.C. State University to package its products. This method, known as aseptic processing, improves product shelf life and quality without the use of any preservatives or refrigeration. Aseptic processing also saves energy, packaging materials and distribution costs.

"Companies like Wright Foods choose to do business in North Carolina because we provide them with the tools they need to succeed," said Secretary Decker. "Our state also provides their employees with an overall quality of life that can't be beat!"

"Consumers continue to demand more nutritious and better tasting foods and at the same time, they want foods that are convenient and affordable," said J. Michael Drozd, president and CEO of Wright Foods Inc. "This expansion will allow us to grow to meet the needs of consumers. We are proud that the State of North Carolina recognizes the importance of agribusiness to our economy and our future. We are excited to expand in Montgomery County and to continue the partnership we have established with this community."

[Read more.](#)

Food Packaging Company to Expand Facilities in Lenoir and Iredell Counties

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Pactiv, LLC will expand manufacturing facilities in Lenoir and Iredell counties. The company plans to create 77 jobs in the two counties and invest more than \$9 million in Kinston and Mooresville.

"Manufacturers like Pactiv recognize that our state's workforce is second to none," said Governor McCrory. "We must continue to support education and job training programs that will help companies produce more goods with the 'Made in North Carolina' logo."

Headquartered in Illinois, Pactiv is a leader in the foodservice and food packaging markets. Pactiv's current product lines include custom and stock foam, plastic, aluminum, pressed-paperboard, PE coated board and molded-fiber packaging. These product supply packers, processors, supermarkets, restaurants, institutions and foodservice outlets around the world. Pactiv currently employs more than 850 people in North Carolina.

"We are excited about this expansion," said Pactiv President and CEO John McGrath. "We are committed to meeting our customers' needs and growing the business in communities where there is a good business climate and a skilled and available workforce. Thank you to the state of North Carolina for their unwavering support of our expansion plans." [Read more.](#)



N.C. Film Industry Remains Strong, Mid-Year Figures Show

Six months into 2013, the N.C. Film Office reports a production tally of \$250 million in



Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest (center) with (left-right) Alyson and Jeff Onsrud, Andy Turner and Richard Comer of C.R. Onsrud, at the Paris Air Show last month

N.C. Delegation Promotes Aviation Industry Sector at Paris International Air Show

The N.C. Department of Commerce has completed another successful trade mission, this time to the 50th International Paris Air Show that was highly beneficial for the state's aviation and aerospace industries.

The air show, which was held at Le Bourget Airport north of Paris, is the world's largest gathering of aviation and aerospace industry leaders, with more than 150,000 trade visitors and 2,100 exhibitors from 45 countries. The Commerce delegation included an exhibit in the U.S. Pavilion, marketing the state to companies interested in relocating or expanding in North Carolina. The event also provided a platform for North Carolina companies to reach international customers.

"Our state's aviation industry is becoming increasingly important to long-term job and investment growth," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "North Carolina has the job training programs and highly-skilled workforce that advanced manufacturers need to succeed in a global market."

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest led the state delegation and conducted numerous meetings with industry leaders.

"North Carolina has been a leader in aviation since the Wright Brothers took their historic flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903," said Lt. Governor Forest. "We're committed to working with the aviation industry to ensure that our state builds on this proud legacy."

In addition to meeting with various aviation and aerospace companies with current interests in North Carolina and other possible prospects, recent activities highlight the state's growing aviation sector:

GE Aviation announced plans for an expansion at four locations in North Carolina, including Ashe, Buncombe, Durham and New Hanover counties. The project would create 242 new jobs and bring a capital investment of \$195 million over the next five years. GE Aviation would produce engine components made of advanced ceramic matrix composite. GE currently employs more than 1,300 people at its four North Carolina sites.

IOMAX USA recently announced it will be expanding its Iredell County aircraft and integration operations. The company plans

direct in-state spending and 25,000 job opportunities for North Carolinians. More than 35 productions have filed with the state film office, which will account for 4,300 production days spread across at least 30 counties. The state remains an attractive location for productions because of the 25 percent refundable tax credit offered as well as North Carolina's large and talented pool of film professionals, established infrastructure and variety of location types. Highlights to date in 2013 include the series *Under the Dome*, *Homeland*, *Banshee*, *Eastbound & Down*, and *Sleepy Hollow*, feature films *Tammy*, *Careful What You Wish For*, *The Ultimate Gift*, and *The Remaining*, as well as the made-for-television movies *The Perfect Summer* and *Norman Rockwell's Shuffleton's Barbershop*.

"North Carolina continues to be a preferred location in the film industry," said N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett. "Our talented crew base, vast array of locations and the state's tax incentive - while not the largest in the nation, it's certainly the smartest - provide filmmakers and industry leaders the right mix for bringing their productions here and showcasing them to viewers worldwide."

Additionally, national commercials for Fiat, PepsiCo and Planters Peanuts have also shot in state. The 2013 mid-year figures are a strong follow-up to last year's record breaking year-end totals. Led by *Iron Man 3*, direct in-state spending in 2012 eclipsed \$376 million while productions created nearly 20,000 job opportunities in the state. [Read more.](#)



North Carolina
Main Street

**Entries Solicited For Small Town
Main Street Awards**

to create 35 new jobs and invest more than \$1.75 million over the next three years in Mooresville. IOMAX, headquartered in Mooresville, is a full spectrum provider for signals intelligence and airborne systems solutions, and currently employs 65 people in the state.

C.R. Onsrud has secured a contract to sell one of its high-precision machining products to Boeing. The fully enclosed, 5-axis machine center will be used to cut carbon fiber components for aircraft. C.R. Onsrud, a family-owned company headquartered in Troutman, was among several North Carolina businesses that used the Department's Paris Air Show booth to market and promote their products. The company currently employs 130 people, including 45 skilled positions that have been added in the past year. C.R. Onsrud has also doubled the size of the Troutman facility and made a capital investment of nearly \$10 million.

Governor Pat McCrory recently helped UTC Aerospace Systems celebrate the grand opening of its divisional headquarters in Charlotte. UTC Aerospace Systems, a unit of United Technologies Corp., plans to employ up to 300 employees at its newly-renovated headquarters. The company provides an array of products and services to the global aerospace and building systems industries.

Air show visitors witnessed a fly-by of the new Airbus A350. Its fuselage is manufactured by Spirit AeroSystems in Kinston. The company opened its Global TransPark manufacturing facility in 2008, announced a major expansion in 2011, and currently employs 400 people.

For more information on North Carolina's aviation industry, visit: www.thrivenc.com/aerospace.



Tourism Division Launches New VisitNC.com

For the first time since 2009, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports

It's time to have your Small Town Main Street community recognized for good work by submitting downtown projects completed within the past two years for a Small Town Main Street Award. The awards will be presented at the annual Main Street Conference in New Bern next January. Award nomination forms were emailed last month. Please feel free to contact [the Small Town Main Street Program managers](#) for more information. Deadline for submissions is Aug. 20.

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 - July 15, 2013

New projects assigned:	207
Projects announced:	67
Jobs announced:	9,869
Capital investment announced:	\$794M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	734
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	11,113

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Machining companies seek certification to win more aviation business](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, July 11)
- [Sheetz Convenience Restaurants Builds \\$32.8 Million Distribution-Production Center In Burlington, North Carolina](#) (Area Development Online, July 11)
- [N.C.'s Investment Management Industry Large, Growing](#) (*UNC News*, July 11)
- [GTCC Small Business Center opens in High Point](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, July 11)

Development has significantly enhanced its digital presence with a new website for consumer travel planning. [VisitNC.com](#) features a fresh look with dynamic content and responsive web design to make travel planning easier and more interactive.

In addition to its agile design, the new website aligns with the Division's key focus of showcasing North Carolina's beauty and continued growth of downstream referrals to industry partners' sites. In 2012, downstream referrals increased 10 percent on record traffic of four million unique visitors.

"VisitNC.com is the preeminent consumer travel planning website for North Carolina and the centerpiece of our tourism marketing efforts," said Director of Tourism Marketing Wit Tuttell. "The site plays a critical role in promoting the state's tourism industry, which directly supports nearly 200,000 jobs for North Carolina residents and contributes \$1.5 billion in state and local tax revenues."

A major component of VisitNC.com is its responsive design, which provides an optimal layout for any screen size - from mobile devices to Web-enabled televisions. Since 2009, mobile traffic on VisitNC.com has grown from 1.3 percent to 33 percent in just four years.

Defense & Economic Development Trade Show Comes to Fayetteville Next Month

U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, Fayetteville Technical Community College and the N.C. Military Business Center will host the [12th Annual North Carolina Defense & Economic Development Trade Show and Procurement Workshops](#) on Aug. 6 at FTCC's Horace Sisk Gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Defense Trade Show at FTCC brings together more major defense contractors, North Carolina businesses, military and federal agencies and congressional delegation members than any other event in our state," said NCMBC Executive Director Scott Dorney. "A full day of trade show, subcontractor networking and educational activities make the Defense Trade Show a unique, 'must attend' event for businesses in the defense and federal marketplace."

The event will include a traditional trade show, static displays and demonstrations of military equipment, informal networking opportunities, structured teaming sessions, government procurement workshops and extensive networking opportunities for both prospective and current federal contractors.

North Carolina is home to five major Department of Defense installations (Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Air Stations Cherry Point and New River, Seymour Johnson AFB, and Fort Bragg), U.S. Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City and Sector North Carolina, and dozens of National Guard, Reserve and other federal agency facilities.

More than 700 attendees participated in last year's trade show, and attendance is anticipated to grow.

[N.C. Secretary of Commerce: vision, variety lead to success](#) (*The Sanford Herald*, July 10)

• [N.C. power Lenovo takes PC crown](#) (*wral.com*, July 10)

• [Concord corrals Ford Mustang's big birthday bash](#) (*Independent Tribune - Concord*, July 10)

• [John Cox leaving Cabarrus for Florida chamber post](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, July 9)

• [Aerospace conference to bring crowd of up to 400 to Winston-Salem](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, July 9)

• [MetLife: 75% of Charlotte jobs so far filled with local hires](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, July 9)

• [Durham to get 50 of GE Aviation's 242 new jobs](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, July 9)

• [Lake Norman economic-development agencies form marketing cooperative](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, July 9)

• [N.C. community college to offer beer-crafting degree](#) (*wral.com*, July 8)

[NASCAR Tech puts students on fast track](#) (*Statesville Record & Landmark*, July 8)

• [Mebane on track to use grant](#) (*The Times News -- Burlington*, July 8)

• [Hundreds look for work as plant readies to open](#) (*Gaston Gazette*, July 8)

• [Triangle companies leading the way to sustainability](#) (*News & Observer - Raleigh*, July 8)

• [Sanford selected for extensive downtown paint job](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, July 8)

• [Winston-Salem State incubator wins \\$1.2 million grant](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, July 8)

• [North Carolina Military-Motorsports Consortium to Pioneer U.S.-U.K. Exchange Program](#) (*N.C. Political News*, July 7)

• [Leland looks for way to push prosperity](#) (*StarNews - Wilmington*, July 7)

(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](#)

© 2013 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.
