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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue (right) presents an aerial photo of the Spirit AeroSystems facility to President and CEO Jeff Turner (center).

Spirit AeroSystems opens GTP plant

Spirit AeroSystems, the world's largest independent supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components, on July 1 formally opened its new 500,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Global TransPark in Kinston. The ceremony was hosted by Spirit President and CEO Jeff Turner, and Airbus President and CEO Tom Enders. Gov. Bev Perdue, and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll were among the numerous community partners from around the region and state who attended the ceremony.

"I believe that Kinston and the Global TransPark will become synonymous with aerospace around the globe," Perdue told the audience.

"We are proud of what Spirit has achieved over the last two years and honoured to have been invited to Kinston to witness the opening of this high-tech facility. Here at the Kinston plant an important part of our all new A350 XWB will be manufactured," said Tom Enders, Airbus president and CEO. "Our cooperation with Spirit is an example of how Airbus is growing its partnerships in the United States, both supporting jobs and contributing to the American economy," he added.

Employees at the facility will design and manufacture the composite center fuselage upper and lower shells (Section 15) and front wing spar for the Airbus A350 XWB aircraft using state-of-the-art technology and processes. Design work has been underway for approximately two years, and the manufacturing process will begin immediately. Spirit has pledged to create 1,000 jobs over the course of the next six years, 200 of which will be created by the end of 2010. [Read](#)

Apparel maker to hire 250 in Tarboro

New Jersey-based Jade Apparel has announced plans for a \$2 million renovation to the Glenoit Fabrics facility in Tarboro. The building will be divided to make way for the new business, which will manufacture military garments. The company also plans to hire 250 people in the next three years to work at the facility.

[Apparel maker to invest \\$2m in Tarboro plant](#)
(Rocky Mount Telegram, June 29)

Wood products company to bring 32 jobs to McDowell County

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 1 announced that Edwards Wood Products Inc./Woodlawn will expand with a new saw mill in McDowell County. The company plans to create 32 jobs and invest more than \$1.96 million, including lease payments, during the next three years in Marion. The project was made possible in part by a \$96,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Cindy Messer was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina is a leader in the wood products industry and continues to see expansions by strong, locally owned manufacturing companies," Perdue said. "Our skilled workers, custom training programs and top-rated business climate are top attractions for companies looking for the best location to grow and thrive." [Read more.](#)

State program will make new homes more energy efficient

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's State Energy Office is launching a \$3.7 million program to improve energy efficiency in new single-family homes and multi-family housing under construction. Two agencies have been designated to work with the state to develop, implement and monitor a statewide residential energy efficiency program that will provide sustainable energy savings in new homes for

[more.](#)

[Spirit North Carolina](#) (Kinston Free Press, July 2)

[Spirit enters with glitz, promises](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 2)

'N.C. Now' profiles nanotech

The UNC-TV show "North Carolina Now" profiled the state's growing nanotechnology cluster during its June 21 episode. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology Executive Director John Hardin was interviewed for the story. In the episode, now online, Hardin offers Commerce's perspective on why nanotechnology is important, how the state and its metro regions rank compared to other states and regions, the state's strengths in the sector and some important challenges that researchers and companies are addressing. [See the video.](#)

Davis discusses international trade on 'Carolina Business Review'

N.C. Dept. of Commerce International Trade Director Jean Davis was a guest on the June 25 episode of Carolina Business Review. On the show Davis discusses the ways government and economic development agencies can help North Carolina businesses. She also draws on her own background as a private-sector businesswoman prior to coming to Commerce. [See the video.](#)

SBA announces funding for regional clusters

The U.S. Small Business Administration on June 22 announced the availability of funding to support economic development and job creation through existing regional clusters. As part of its Regional Cluster Initiative, SBA will accept proposals from local and regional cluster initiatives beginning July 7 for funding of up to \$600,000 per cluster to support up to 15 projects across the country. Proposals should be submitted by the cluster's coordinating entity.

SBA's Regional Cluster Initiative focuses on accelerating small business growth and job creation through clusters that leverage and align a region's economic, business and workforce assets. Regional clusters are networks of organizations and businesses in a geographic area that grow through increased collaboration, efficiency and innovation.

SBA is launching two programs within its Regional Cluster Initiative: Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs) and Advanced Defense Technologies (ADTs). Prospective offers for both solicitations may find additional information through the [Federal Business Opportunities](#). [Read more.](#)

Peak Resources plans Gastonia HQ

A Gastonia-based nursing-home-management company is planning a new 10,000-square-foot headquarters building in a county-owned office park. Peak Resources Inc. wants to occupy the Summit at Court Drive facility in next year's first quarter. Construction is expected to start this month. Gaston County is developing the Summit at Court Drive park on the north side of Interstate 85 at New Hope Road, near Gaston

both homeowners and renters, while improving the comfort and durability of the homes.

The ASU Energy Center in Boone and Systems Building Research Alliance, a nonprofit consortium of electric utilities and major manufactured and modular home building companies, have been designated by the Energy Office to lead the effort. Plans are to improve energy efficiency in nearly 2,500 single-family homes and 480 multi-family units, along with 1,700 manufactured homes. The program, funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will demonstrate to builders and homeowners that energy improvements make homes more attractive to buyers, generate greater marketplace demand for energy-efficient homes and result in long-term energy savings.

Appalachian State University will receive \$2.6 million to focus on site-built single-family and multi-family home energy efficiency improvements. Systems Building Research Alliance will receive \$1.1 million to focus on manufactured homes built to federal standards, addressing energy efficiency improvements. [Read more.](#)

[Latest weatherization program targets new homes, apartments, trailers](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 30)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry (B&I) 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 2, 2010

New projects assigned:	227
Projects announced:	63
Jobs created:	8,568
Capital invested:	\$1.43B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	682
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	12,381

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

Memorial Hospital.

[Peak Resources plans Gastonia headquarters](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, June 29)

Clayton receives development grant

The Town of Clayton has been approved for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$700,000 to construct public water/sewer lines and an industrial access road to a new manufacturing plant to be constructed by Automatic Rolls. These infrastructure improvements will allow the company to create 70 new jobs and invest \$28 million dollars over the next two years.

- [Duke Energy, Cisco Systems sign deal to bring smart grid into homes](#) (Wilmington Star-News, June 30)
- [Gephardt: Medical research can help fuel U.S. economy](#) (Winston-Salem Journal, July 1)
- [Energy Star rebates ignored](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 30)

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