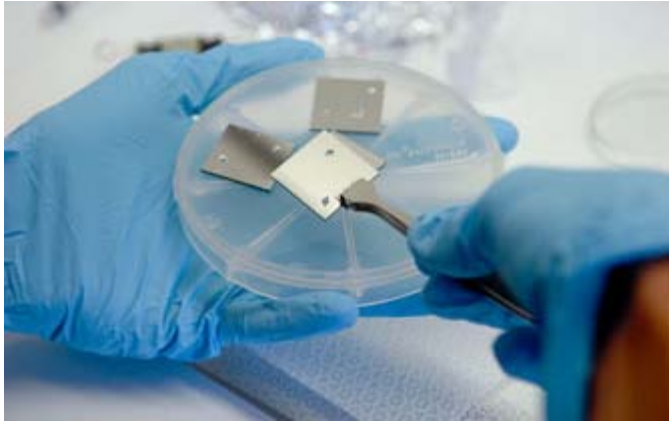


# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Nano materials on a petri dish (Photo courtesy N.C. State University's Nanotechnology Initiative)

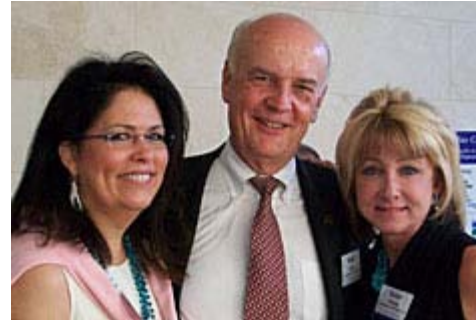
## N.C. recognized as a leader in nanotech

North Carolina has been ranked the No. 8 state, and the Raleigh-Durham area the No. 4 metro in the nation, for nanotechnology activity, in a new study by the [Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies](#) (PEN). A national partnership between the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Pew Charitable Trusts, PEN provides independent, objective knowledge and analysis to inform critical decisions affecting the development and commercialization of nanotechnologies.

The nanotechnology sector is expected to continue to grow rapidly in North Carolina. In a recent interview with Dr. Bill Friday on UNC-TV, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco mentioned that he sees nanotechnology as an important area of focus for the Department of Commerce and North Carolina as a whole.

Nanotechnology is an area that Commerce's Office of Science and Technology has been emphasizing since at least 2006, when it released [A Roadmap for Nanotechnology in North Carolina's 21st Century Economy](#). The office also maintains a clearinghouse of information on nanotechnology in North Carolina, [www.NCnanotechnology.com](http://www.NCnanotechnology.com). The office has an ongoing collaboration with nanotechnology companies, university research centers, and nonprofit organizations across the state. It hosted the [N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference](#) in Raleigh in March 2009. Another conference is being planned for spring of 2010.

## Swedish firm relocates U.S. HQ to Charlotte



(Left-right) Alison Benton, Aliquantus Consulting LLC, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, and Susan Arledge, Arledge Partners Real Estate Group

## Crisco speaks at Dallas event

To develop and sustain business relationships, the [Friends of North Carolina](#) program fully underwrote an Aug. 18 reception and presentation for site selection consultants at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, Texas. Fifteen consultants met with Sec. Keith Crisco, representatives from the Business and Industry Division and other economic development leaders from across North Carolina. The consultants also received a copy of the Summer 2009 Commerce Update as well as parting gifts of pottery from the Seagrove area. Sec. Crisco offered remarks and an update on North Carolina's current economic development programs and activities.

The event coincided with a business development mission that included 10 meetings with active prospects for economic development in North Carolina. These projects represent the potential for more than 6,000 jobs and nearly \$700 million in capital investment, and are important components of North Carolina's efforts to market itself as a premier business location.

## Energy Office to be featured Aug. 25 on OPEN/Net

The State Energy Office will be featured Aug 25 (tonight) at 8 p.m. on OPEN/Net, the state's live call-in program. Tuesday's show will feature: John Morrison, Commerce assistant secretary for energy; Harold Davis

Gov. Bev Perdue on Aug. 20 announced that Biotage LLC, a Swedish company that develops and manufactures instruments and consumables for pharmaceutical research, will relocate its United States headquarters to Charlotte. The company plans to invest in facility upgrades and create 21 new jobs in Mecklenburg County.

Biotage is a leading supplier of tools and technology for medicinal and analytical chemistry and process development. The company has offices in the U.S., the United Kingdom and Japan and employs nearly 270 workers worldwide.

The company is planning to move its U.S. headquarters from Virginia to North Carolina. Operations in Charlotte will include general administration, marketing and sales, and lab work for applications development, light manufacturing and distribution. Garrett Wyckoff was the Commerce developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

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## Sun Edison to build solar farm

Sun Edison, a Maryland-based solar energy provider, has purchased a 356-acre tract of land in Davidson County in order to build the nation's largest photovoltaic solar farm, according to a release by the Davidson County Economic Development Commission (DCEDC).

In May of 2008, Duke Energy announced signed agreements with Sun Edison to purchase the entire output of the Davidson County solar farm. That agreement will run for 20 years. The solar farm is to begin production no later than December, 2010.

In one year of full production, the solar farm will offset 32,328,660 pounds of carbon dioxide. This is the equivalent of taking 3,168 cars off the road for one year. The estimated cost to construct the project is \$173,000,000. Construction on the site is to begin immediately.

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## DuPont brings \$55M expansion to Bladen

Gov. Bev Perdue on Aug. 20 announced that DuPont will add a new facility on a portion of its Fayetteville Works campus in Bladen County, creating 10 jobs and investing \$55 million during the next three years. The announcement of the new plant, which will make a key component in solar energy panels, was made possible in part by a \$50,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

DuPont employs 60,000 workers in 70 countries worldwide, including more than 900 at N.C. facilities in Fayetteville, Kinston and the Research Triangle Park. The new plant, in Bladen County near the Cumberland-Bladen County line, will produce polymer for DuPont™ Tedlar® polyvinyl fluoride film used in the protective backsheets of photovoltaic solar panels. These panels convert light into electric power. The photovoltaic industry is experiencing worldwide growth as consumers turn to alternatives such as fossil fuels. This expansion will allow DuPont to keep pace with market expansion. The company expects overall sales of its family of products into the photovoltaic industry to exceed \$1 billion by 2012. Salaries for the 10 new skilled manufacturer positions will vary by job type, but the average annual wage will be \$36,278, not including benefits, more than the Bladen County average annual wage of \$25,792.

"During these tough economic times, it's critical that we

III, N.C. Weatherization Program manager; and Dr. John Hardin, acting executive director, N.C. Board of Science & Technology. Discussion will include the role of the State Energy Office, which was recently placed under the Dept. of Commerce from the Dept. of Administration. To participate in the program, call (888) 228-6736. Questions and comments may also be submitted by e-mail before the show at [open@doa.nc.gov](mailto:open@doa.nc.gov). [Learn more about OPEN/Net.](#)

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## Roundtable held for WNC governments

The Governor's Office held a roundtable discussion Aug. 13 with the six councils of governments that represent western North Carolina. The event was held in conjunction with the Appalachian Regional Commission and N.C. Commerce. The roundtable, hosted by the Western Piedmont COG in Hickory, provided a forum for participants to discuss opportunities for joint efforts to improve the community and economic development environment in the region.

The group acknowledged the importance of collaboration in working toward their goals of improving the quality of education, creating a highly trained workforce ready to compete in the green economy, and providing healthcare that is both accessible and affordable. For more on the roundtable, visit Gov. Perdue's Town Hall Blog to [read the entry](#) by Olivia Collier, N.C. ARC program manager.

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## Aerospace contracts take off

North Carolina vendors have won more than 425 defense contracts worth more than \$4.7 million since June 2008, according to a joint statement by the N.C. Military Business Center (NCMBC), the N.C. Aerospace Alliance (NC-AA) and the GoldenLEAF Foundation.

While many industries are experiencing economic hardship, the aerospace industry is keeping pace in North Carolina, due to the shift from manufacturing for new aircraft to maintenance, repair and overhaul for existing platforms. NCMBC, NC-AA, and GoldenLEAF are combining resources and connections to assist the state in building the aerospace industry in North Carolina. Part of this network connects the U.S. Dept. of Defense (DOD) aerospace industry needs with parts suppliers in North Carolina registered through the NC-AA's [www.SourceNC.com](http://www.SourceNC.com) Website.

New Phoenix Aerospace in Morrisville and VX Aerospace in Morganton are NC-AA members that have received loan capital from the Defense Venture Fund managed by The

continue to make investments to expand our businesses and add jobs," said Sen. Tony Rand. Rand, Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco participated in the announcement.

"North Carolina's business climate and strong workforce continue to attract leading businesses to expand in our state," said Rep. William Brisson.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, Bladen County, Bladen Community College, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, Progress Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas. Commerce's Martie Butler was the developer on this project.

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## German firm to build in Alamance

Indulor, a global leader in the design and manufacture of emulsion polymers and solid resins, recently held a ribbon-cutting to open its U.S. operations in Alamance County. The company, based in Germany, has purchased a 13.24-acre site in Graham and is creating 10 jobs in the near term, while planning to expand further in the next three years. Commerce's Dallas Hardenbrook was the developer on this project.

[It's official: Graham is Indulor's first U.S. operation](#) (Burlington Times, Aug. 20)

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## Carroll to keynote systems summit

Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll will be one of the keynote speakers at the 2009 N.C. Management Systems Summit, scheduled to take place Sept. 17-18 at the McKimmon Center at N.C. State University in Raleigh. Carroll will speak on the continued importance of manufacturing in our economy. Commanding Officer, Col. L. S. Loch, of the U.S. Marine Corps, Fleet Readiness Center East, will deliver the other keynote.

This year's summit will focus on several key points, including quality manufacturing; best practices and performance excellence; management systems development, implementation, maintenance and improvement; and business retention, expansion and growth. [Learn more about the summit.](#)

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## Program helps farmers add value

N.C. State University is partnering with the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission to launch the N.C. Value-Added Cost Share (NCVACS) program, which is designed to help farmers add economic value to their products. The program, funded with \$1.2 million from the commission, provides funding for feasibility assessment, business plan development and assistance with applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) awarded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). This grant helps farmers pay for professional services and equipment that will ultimately increase the value of their products.

The development of value-added agricultural operations is an emerging sector of North Carolina agriculture. The NCVACS program works hand-in-hand with the VAPG by reducing the costs associated with professional services and equipment

Neuse River Development Authority. VX Aerospace recently received several contracts to supply composite helicopter parts to U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. [Read more.](#)

[N.C. companies land \\$4.7M in aerospace contracts](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 19)

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## Workforce to meet Aug. 26

Commerce's [Commission on Workforce Development](#) will hold its next meeting at the McKimmon Center at N.C. State University on Aug. 26. The meeting will concern the deployment of the 2009-2011 strategic plan. The 2009 executive committee will also be introduced. In addition, the meeting will include the session "Agency Perspectives on Strengthening Our Workforce Development System in a Challenging Economy." N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls, N.C. Employment Security Commission Chairman Moses Carey and Workforce Development Executive Director Roger Shackelford will speak during the session.

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## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by 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 - Aug. 17, 2009

New projects assigned:	291
Projects announced:	64
Jobs created:	6,746
Capital invested:	\$1.81B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	1,033
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	17,196

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [McNeill: Getting BRAC work won't be easy](#) (Fayetteville Observer, Aug. 20)
- [GLE's uranium enrichment application approved](#) (Wilmington Star-News, Aug.

purchases that are not funded by the USDA grant. [Read more.](#)

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- [WingSwept receives Workforce Development training grant](#) (mync.com, Aug. 20)
- [Roads lead to McDowell: County sees increase in visitors in 2008](#)(The McDowell News, Aug. 20)

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