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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Dr. James Ryan, dean of the Joint School of NanoScience and NanoEngineering at UNC-Greensboro and N.C. A&T University, kick off the Commercialization of Micro-Nano Systems Conference in Greensboro.

COMS Global micro-nano conference taking place in Greensboro

The [Commercialization of Micro-Nano Systems Conference](#), an international conference that brings together micro-nanotechnology leaders from every sector of industry, is taking place through Aug. 31 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. Plenary speakers include Anthony Atala, MD, Joseph M. DeSimone, Ph.D. and Paul M. Zavracky, Ph.D. Former Governor Jim Hunt and U.S. Senator Kay Hagan will deliver keynote addresses. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Dr. James Ryan, dean of the Joint School of NanoScience and NanoEngineering at UNC-Greensboro and N.C. A&T University, delivered opening remarks at the conference.

RTP area emerges as nanobio bubble

As North Carolina hosts the Commercialization of Micro-Nano Systems Conference in Greensboro through Aug. 31, the state is emerging as an industry bubble for nanobiotechnology, the convergence of nanotechnology and life sciences. And that is a good thing in the world of nanotechnology. The industry identifies "nano-metros," or the nation's regional hubs, as "bubbles" mapped out by the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies.

Commerce assists travelers, tourism-related businesses during storm

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development is continuing to assist travelers and tourism-related businesses in the wake of Hurricane Irene. As Labor Day approaches, the Division is spreading the message that a visit from Irene hasn't kept life on North Carolina's coast from returning to normal in most areas.

Ongoing efforts include:

- Continuous updates on VisitNC.com
- Online display advertising in partnership with the North Carolina Press Association
- Promotional scripts for live reads by on-air radio personalities and online display advertising in partnership with the N.C. Association of Broadcasters
- Live media interviews with Division staff regarding reopenings, events and other reasons to travel within and to North Carolina
- Ongoing social media efforts to ensure accurate information is shared among followers and fans on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr
- Sharing of accurate travel planning information through the Welcome Centers and Call Center

Resources available for businesses affected by Irene

For small and mid-size business in North Carolina impacted by Hurricane Irene, there are recovery resources available to you. To obtain information about business recovery resources, you can contact a toll free number through the N.C. Department of Commerce's [Business Link North Carolina](#) at (800) 228-8443.

The [Small Business and Technology Development Center](#) provides disaster assistance for North Carolina's small and mid-sized businesses. If your business is affected by a disaster you can receive free assistance

While Silicon Valley, Boston and Houston are the traditional leaders in the industry, Raleigh earned a place in the rankings in 2009 and has been climbing ever since. With the No. 3 spot within reach in the not-so-distant future, the industry continues to grow thanks to a concentration of and collaboration between businesses, government and university entities in and around Research Triangle Park.

At least 40 of the estimated 300 nanobiotech companies nationwide reside in North Carolina. Also residing in Durham is the [Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology](#). COIN is a nonprofit, virtual center of innovation for nanobiotechnology and nanomedicine. According to its website, COIN "supports those organizations that are most-impacted by the convergence of nano (advanced materials) and bio (life sciences) by ensuring that they have immediate structured access to all relevant resources and a conduit to key regulatory agencies impacting the field. COIN is a premier source of networking opportunities, information and tailored innovation services that address client needs and catalyze and advance commercialization of nanobiotechnology." [Read more](#).

[Greensboro nano conference drawing from around globe](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Aug. 18)

P&G Manufacturing to create 32 jobs in Beaufort County

Governor Bev Perdue on Aug. 26 announced that P&G Manufacturing will build a manufacturing facility that will increase its capacity to produce air filtration equipment in Washington. The company expects to create 32 full time jobs and invest \$4 million in the plant by 2012. The project was made possible in part by a \$96,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"My top priority as Governor is growing jobs," said Perdue. "P&G Manufacturing has grown in North Carolina since 1976. This grant will help the company nearly double its workforce and greatly expand its facility. Like so many other companies, P&G Manufacturing has succeeded because it is able to tap into our skilled, well-trained workforce."

This 50,000-square-foot facility will allow the company to consolidate operations into one building and provide the space needed for additional equipment. PGM manufactures a wide array of air filtration equipment that surpasses the tolerances of any other manufacturer. The company uses the latest drafting software and modeling techniques to perform the engineering required to exceed industry standards. The final product is manufactured using state of the art welding equipment and welders certified under the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. PGM currently employs 42 people. [Read more](#).

to:

- Assess the financial impact on your business
- Reconstruct financial statements
- Prepare SBA disaster loan applications, in the event of a federal disaster declaration
- Evaluate options with creditors

The SBTDC encourages businesses owners, as one of the first steps after a disaster, to contact their insurance carrier to file a claim. If the owner is leasing business space, ensure that the lease owner has contacted their insurance carrier. Also, take pictures of the damage.

The SBTDC is a business advisory service of the University of North Carolina System operated in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Over the past 25 years, the SBTDC has served more than 100,000 North Carolina small and mid-sized businesses. There are 16 offices across the state. [See more ways](#) to help those affected by Hurricane Irene.



EDIS to Become AccessNC

This fall, the N.C. Department of Commerce will launch a major project to re-brand and upgrade the capabilities of a critical online tool used by site selection decision makers. The state's Economic Development Intelligence System will become AccessNC, a one-stop information portal where site selectors can access the demographic and property information they need when considering North Carolina business locations.

One of the most innovative elements of AccessNC will be a new mobile app, a tool to access building and site data from a wide variety of smart phones and mobile devices. The mobile app will enable users to create lists of their favorite sites, take notes for each



Michael Shore of FLS Energy

FLS Energy named America's 46th fastest growing company by *Inc.* magazine

FLS Energy of Asheville has been ranked No. 46 in *Inc.* magazine's 2011 Inc. 500, an exclusive ranking of the nation's top 500 fastest-growing private companies. FLS Energy is the highest ranking company in North Carolina, and the fifth of 15 energy companies included in this year's list. FLS is also a former Green Business Fund winner.

FLS Energy was ranked in the top 50 in the nation because of its tremendous three-year revenue growth of more than 4,300 percent. Founded in 2006 by three entrepreneurial environmentalists, the company has grown to over 80 employees across the Southeast. Annual revenue for 2011 is projected to be \$36 million - double last year's revenue of \$18 million.

"We founded FLS Energy with a commitment to making solar energy mainstream," said FLS Energy CEO and co-founder, Michael Shore. "We believe that the solar age has dawned, enabling our company to create jobs, reduce global warming pollution and contribute to our economy."

One reason for the swift growth of FLS Energy is the innovative business model that makes solar energy more affordable and requires little or no up-front costs for the client. FLS Energy owns the solar hot water system and sells the client the energy needed to heat their water at rates comparable and often lower than fossil fuels.

Essentially, FLS Energy operates like a small utility company serving clients from their own rooftops. FLS Energy's innovative business model paved the way for the company's growth and continues to differentiate FLS Energy from other solar energy companies. FLS Energy has developed dozens of projects for companies within the hospitality, agriculture, non-profit and government sectors using their business model.

This fast growing company is on a trajectory for more growth. FLS Energy is currently hiring six more team members and projects to hire another 20 by the end of the year. FLS Energy is a leading NC company for job creation within the clean energy sector. [Read more.](#)

Commerce grant helps job-training program

Johnston County Industries has won a \$178,476 grant from

building or site, and to map driving directions from their current location to the building or site.

In preparation for the transition to the new system, local and regional stake holders are encouraged to re-check the accuracy of the building and site data they are responsible for entering into the system. The new mobile app, along with the marketing campaign to introduce it will bring increased visibility to the buildings and sites database. Data entry procedures remain unchanged from current practice.

For information about the AccessNC transition, contact David Rhoades in the Commerce Marketing Division at drhoades@nccommerce.com or 919-715-6556.



Forums to address small town competitiveness

The Governor's Forums on Small Town Competitiveness will be held in three North Carolina towns in September and October. These forums will bring together state and federal officials, along with community economic development partners and Governor Bev Perdue, to hear directly from small town leaders about the resources necessary for North Carolina's continued growth. The forums will be held Sept. 16 in Williamston, Sept. 28 in Thomasville and Oct. 6 in Clyde. Call Olivia Collier at (919) 571-4900 for more info. [Register for the forums.](#) Space is limited to two people per local government.



Red Hat to move HQ to downtown Raleigh

Red Hat plans to move its headquarters to downtown Raleigh into the Two Progress

the N.C. Department of Commerce to start a job-training program for jobless workers seeking careers in the food-service industry. JCI is a nonprofit organization that trains and employs people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. The organization is also working with Capital Area Workforce Development and Johnston Community College on the project, said JCI Director Vicki Shore.

[Cyber Café to reopen](#) (*The Herald* - Smithfield, Aug. 28)

Commerce to participate in Thailand trade briefing

N.C. Department of Commerce Director of Foreign Operations Derek Chen will participate in the "Thailand ... Gateway to Southeast Asia" trade briefing Sept. 8 at Wake Forest University. The briefing is presented by the Thai Ministry of Commerce, Investment Board and Tourism Authority. Officials from Thailand and from Wake Forest University will also participate. [Learn more](#).

Defense contracting companies continue to thrive in N.C.

In North Carolina, the aerospace, aviation and defense industry continues to grow, as was noted during the 2011 N.C. Aerospace Supplier Conference held Aug. 24 in Greensboro. In the United States, aerospace is currently mimicking the automotive industry's migration of production to the Southeast thanks to the region's workforce, manufacturing heritage, training programs and low costs of living and doing business. North Carolina stands out with 10,000 new workers coming out of the military already skilled in the industry.

"Over the next five to 10 years, we're going to see a definite change in the budget outlook for the Department of Defense and it will challenge us to come up with more efficient ways to do business," said Lieutenant General Mark Shackelford in a News 14 Carolina article. U.S. Senator Kay Hagan announced this week that Ultra Armoring out of Shelby was awarded a \$44.7 million contract by the U.S. Special Operations Command's procurement division.

"North Carolina is home to some of the best defense businesses and contractors in the country, and Ultra Armoring is a superb example of the high-quality work our state has to offer the defense industry," said Hagan in the Charlotte Business Journal. [Read more](#).

[Aerospace industry could be key to N.C.'s future](#) (News 14 Carolina, Aug. 24)

[Ultra Armoring wins \\$45M contract](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 24)

CNN Money lists Morrisville No. 7 for places with the most affordable housing

CNN Money has listed Morrisville as No. 7 among 25 places with the most affordable housing.

CNN Money reported the median home price in Morrisville as \$214,500 and the median family income as \$133,343.

The article showcased Morrisville as a small town with an

Plaza building currently occupied by Progress Energy, according to Red Hat spokeswoman Leigh Day.

The plan is to relocate all 600 of Red Hat's Raleigh workers into the facility.

"It's appropriate for the needs of our employee base," she says of the building at 100 East Davie Street. Red Hat will get its name on the building, Day says.

[Red Hat to move HQ to Progress Energy building](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Aug. 25)

NCSEA to hold Clean Energy in the Mountains event

The N.C. Sustainable Energy Association will hold an event, Clean Energy in the Mountains: Bluegrass, Brews and the Latest News, Sept. 8 at Highland Brewing in Asheville. The event is a celebration of the innovation and entrepreneurship that is driving current successes and future opportunities for clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency in Western North Carolina. [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 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 - Aug. 30, 2011

New projects assigned:	258
Projects announced:	111
Jobs announced:	10,343
Capital investment announced:	\$1.964B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,071
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	12,171

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Perdue vows to press Feds on N.C. 12 repairs](#) (*Outer Banks Voice*, Aug. 28)
- [Budget won't stand in way of Irene recovery](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Aug. 28)
- [N.C. leaders: Outer Banks will be set for](#)

influx of international residents who are attracted to the companies in Research Triangle Park, including Cisco, IBM and Lenovo. The article elaborated on Morrisville's encouragement of cultural diversity through events like the "Taste of Morrisville" festival.

[Where homes are affordable](#) (CNN Money, Aug. 22)

[Labor Day](#) (The Associated Press, Aug. 28)

- [Guilford County commissioners approve incentives for Honda](#) (*The News & Record* - Greensboro, Aug. 26)
- [By the numbers: NC releases data indicating tourism spending in 2010 rose in each of the 17 westernmost counties](#) (*Carolina Public Press* - Western North Carolina, Aug. 23)

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