



Global Supplier of Electrical Transmissions Selects N.C. for New HQ

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C.(EDPNC) announced September 6 the expansion of Peak Demand Inc. in Wilson County. The company intends to create 37 jobs over the coming three years. Peak Demand is investing nearly \$2.6 million in a new headquarters and manufacturing facility.

"North Carolina's business climate, talent and quality of life continue to attract companies from around the world," said **Governor McCrory**. "Peak Demand builds on an exceptional pool of engineering talent in the power equipment industry and ready access to U.S. and international markets."

Peak Demand is a global supplier of electrical transmission and distribution products, including insulators, bushings, components and current transformers. The company is a unit of China's Nanjing Zhida Electric Co. Ltd., a privately held manufacturer founded in 2001. Wilson will serve as its base of operations in the Americas.

"Our state's productive workforce, competitive costs and stellar business climate will support Peak Demand's bold vision for growth in the Americas," said **Secretary Skvarla**.

Peak Demand intends to hire 37 workers at its operations in Wilson, in addition to a staff of seven the company has at a temporary location there. Positions will range from manufacturing operators to executive-level management. Salaries will vary by position but will average at least \$65,714 per year. Overall annual wages in Wilson County currently average \$40,812.

"We are excited to make Wilson our home," said **Jon Rennie, President and CEO of Peak Demand**. "We are a team of industry veterans with a mission to revolutionize customer service in the electric utility products market. Our on-line tools and quick-ship processes are helping customers respond quicker to the critical demands of the electrical grid. In Wilson and in North Carolina, we have found a community that

CS Carolina Expansion Brings 42 Jobs to Alamance County

CS Carolina, a well-known textile producer will expand its presence in Alamance County. The company intends to add 42 workers at its Burlington facility over the coming three years, investing nearly \$9.8 million.

Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement today (September 13).

"Global textile manufacturers continue to turn to North Carolina and our outstanding business climate," said **Governor McCrory**. "CS Carolina is nearly doubling its workforce at this facility, and that speaks highly of the company's commitment to North Carolina."

CS Carolina manufactures, sells and distributes synthetic nylon and polyester filament yarn. The company and its U.S. parent, CS America, are part of Chil Sung Co., Ltd. and CS Fibertech Co., Ltd., a South Korea-based family of textile manufacturing companies. CS Carolina, which completed an expansion announced in 2014, currently employs a workforce of 49 at its Burlington facility.

"CS Carolina's success in Alamance County underscores all the advantages that make North Carolina the Southeast's leading destination for manufacturing jobs," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "Our state's productive workforce, competitive costs and market connectivity continue to fuel this company's growth strategy."

"We've done extensive competitive analyses for a potential expansion site and concluded that there is no better place than North Carolina based on availability of skilled labors, proximity to the customers and low costs of doing business," said **IT Joo, President & CEO of CS Carolina**. "Our investment will help bring in the latest technologies and machinery that will make our operations highly efficient and cost effective, and it will significantly reduce our heavy dependency on Asian imports. We will continue to work with the local suppliers and contractors, and stay with our commitment to reviving the local economy by spreading the wealth created by our operations to the local community."

understands the importance of business growth and the unique needs of manufacturers. We look forward to a long, successful history here."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$100,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

Since Governor McCrory entered office in January of 2013, North Carolina's economy has generated more than 300,000 new jobs.

Numerous state and local allies worked with [EDPNC](#) and [N.C. Commerce](#) in supporting Peak Demand's location plans. They include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Wilson County](#), [City of Wilson](#), and the [Wilson Economic Development Council](#).

[Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla, Governor Pat McCrory, artist/craftsman Stuart Kent and N.C. Natural & Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Klutz.

Governor's Ceremonial Client Gifts Showcase North Carolina Craftmanship

As the chief executive of the ninth largest state in the country, **Governor Pat McCrory** is often called to represent the people of North Carolina at official functions and events. These events sometimes include ceremonial gift exchanges between government leaders or business executives, and these gifts are symbols that reflect our state's image.

Recently, North Carolina has begun offering magnificently handcrafted wooden bowls created by **Stuart Kent**, a woodworker and artist from Winterville. Kent's work has gained notice and praise, including a recent article in [Our State magazine](#).

Economic development organizations often find themselves in situations where a ceremonial gift exchange is an expectation to be met. What advice does Kent offer for commissioning an artist to create something unique?

"It's not an engineering project," said Kent. "so we can't say it will be exactly this size or exactly these dimensions." Kent works in the medium of wood. "I always look for a special piece (of wood) when we can find them. I always look for a log from

CS Carolina's expansion was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$85,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Alamance County](#), the [City of Burlington](#), and the [Alamance Chamber](#).

[Read more.](#)



One North Carolina Small Business Grants Go to 40 Companies

Governor Pat McCrory announced grant awards September 8 from the One North Carolina Small Business Fund to promising North Carolina technology firms. In 2015-16, 40 companies across 16 communities received awards from the fund, totaling \$1.95 million in grants.

"These awards enable home-grown North Carolina businesses to bring exciting new technologies to the global marketplace, and in the process create great jobs here at home," said **Governor McCrory**. "The One North Carolina Small Business Fund is a highly effective tool in supporting our state's innovation economy."

Sixty-three percent of the program's awards during the last year went to biotech-related companies. Information technology firms constituted 16 percent of awardees. Other recipients included firms in advanced materials, photonics and defense. The program matches federal funds awarded through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

Recipient companies engage in cutting-edge research that seeks to address pressing challenges. Mycosynthetix Inc, a Hillsborough life sciences firm, is pioneering new therapies to fight deadly water-borne amoebas. "The One NC matching fund program enables us to leverage our research activities into the

the region where the commission is being given. That puts a real personal connection on all of it."

Kent notes that certain artists will be busy and harder to schedule, especially since crafting original work is an organic process. Therefore, budget at least 60 to 90 days ahead of your first exchange event.

Kent also offers advice for finding the right artist for your job. "All that starts with the Department of Cultural Resources, and they are fabulous resources. I go to the [N.C. Arts Council website](#) on a regular basis to look for artist opportunities."

NCWorks @ Work: Youth Programs Connect Young People with Opportunity

Shan Chapman made a good impression on her career advisor when they first met in November 2015, and for good reason: she was determined to not let her past struggles get in the way of her present success. She was enthusiastic, communicated well, and was incredibly mature for a young adult. She had suffered abuse as a child, but she didn't want those experiences to define her.

By the end of her first month, the youth program at Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board helped her find her first work experience with Tryon Palace. As the Jonkonnu program assistant at the Palace, Chapman managed the inventory and maintenance of the period costumes and clothing, assisted the Jonkonnu director with scheduling and organizing dress rehearsals, and engaged audiences in the history of Jonkonnu in North Carolina.

Chapman hit the ground running. She continued to max out her hours each week and constantly went above and beyond her duties at her job. In April 2016, Chapman received an award from Tryon Palace for all of her hard work as a student employee - helping to fuel the energy that Chapman had first brought to the youth program. She continued to work hard until she graduated from high school in June.

Following graduation, Chapman was hired by Tryon Palace as a historic interpreter. In this position she is responsible for interacting with, engaging, and educating visitors throughout Tryon Palace. These functions include leading guided tours for tour groups and the general public; facilitating self-paced tour experiences; conducting historic craft demonstrations; and at times, portraying historical figures from the past. Working as an historic interpreter is a huge honor, as she now represents Tryon Palace on a daily basis.

"I think WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) is a helpful program," she said. "I wanted to work with the community but didn't know where to start and WIOA helped me reach that goal. I love it here and would love to tell others who want to work to join the WIOA program."

Chapman plans to continue working at Tryon Palace through the fall and plans to enroll at Craven Community College in the spring.

NCWorks @ Work is a SYNC series highlighting success stories from North Carolina's integrated workforce development system. More information about [NCWorks is online](#).

discovery of new medicines for rare infectious diseases, while at the same time growing our company and our reputation," said **Dr. Cedric Pearce, chief executive office at Mycosynthetix**, one of the current award recipients. The company currently employs a full-time staff of four.

"Early-stage funding is often what keeps technology companies alive in their infancy and youth and puts them on the path toward success," said **Dr. John Hardin, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology and Innovation**, which administers the One NC Small Business Fund. "One NC Small Business grants enable firms to boost their technology commercialization efforts, thus making emerging technologies more competitive for angel and venture capital funding, which speeds their access to market."

North Carolina Commerce is currently accepting applications for the 2017 fiscal year. Eligible applicants must receive a federal SBIR/STTR grant between July 1 2016-June 30, 2017. For additional information, [click here](#).

The current list of all recipients can be reviewed [online as well](#).

N.C. in the News

- [Johnston County's 2015 was like none other](#) (*News & Observer* - September 7)
- [Freightliner to launch production of new big truck in Rowan County in January \(PHOTOS\)](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - September 2)
- [Duke ranks in the top 10 utilities for economic development - again](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - August 31)
- [It's official: Charlotte Douglas scores Havana flight](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - August 31)
- [Russ Rogerson will lead merged Iredell economic development effort](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - August 30)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor](#).

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