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## Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Samples of wood pellets manufactured by biomass producer Enviva

## 160 New Jobs Announced in Richmond and Sampson Counties

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today (Sept. 9) that Enviva plans to develop two new facilities in Richmond and Sampson counties. The projects would create a combined 160 permanent jobs between the two facilities by the end of 2017 with an investment of more than \$214.2 million.

"Enviva is one of the fastest-growing companies in the wood pellet industry," said Governor McCrory. "It turns byproducts of sawtimber harvests into renewable fuel that is in great demand around the world. By developing these projects, it plans to double the size of its operating footprint in North Carolina, and in doing so, will be creating good, sustainable jobs."

"One of our goals in North Carolina Commerce is to help our existing industries expand and create more jobs," said Secretary Decker. "Pursuing the development of these projects will bring new jobs to Richmond and Sampson Counties. In doing so, Enviva plans to make a sizeable investment in these North Carolina facilities, further helping rural communities and increasing our exports."

"Governor McCrory's announcement highlights the great opportunity we see to continue to develop significant infrastructure in North Carolina," said company spokeswoman Elizabeth Woodworth. "North Carolina's abundant wood resources, its strong, sustainable forestry practices, and robust labor force make the state a compelling place to invest and we want to thank Governor McCrory and his administration for making North Carolina a great place to do business."

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: NC Community College System, North Carolina's Southeast Regional Economic Development Partnership, Richmond

## CE FoamSolutions Adding 20 New Jobs in Burke County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced September 4 that CE FoamSolutions, LLC is expanding operations in Burke County. The company plans to create 20 new jobs and invest \$98,000 over the next three years in Valdese.

"It is great to see one of our existing industries expanding its operations in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "CE FoamSolutions is tied to one of our traditional industries here, and the market is growing not only in our state, but the region, increasing the demand for these materials made in Valdese."

CE FoamSolutions, LLC manufactures fabricated foam cushions and foam and fiber padding to be used in upholstered furniture. The company currently serves customers in North Carolina and Virginia, but could expand in other parts of the southeast as business grows. CE FoamSolutions currently employs 17 at its Valdese plant.

"North Carolina's western region continues to see growth among existing employers," said Secretary Decker. "And the next time you buy upholstered furniture, your comfy seat may be thanks to the foam cushions made right here in North Carolina!"

"CE FoamSolutions is poised for growth in western North Carolina, as a key supplier of furniture components in an industry experiencing a resurgence due to recent 're-shoring' in furniture manufacturing," said Quez Little, CFO of CE FoamSolutions. "The grant from the One North Carolina Fund will enable us to upgrade our equipment and systems to be more competitive, not only for new business, but also in recruiting technically skilled workers."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$20,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to

County Economic Development, Sampson County Economic Development Commission, Richmond County, Sampson County, Golden Leaf and N.C. Ports.

[Read more.](#)

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## United Furniture Industries Adding 200 Jobs in Forsyth County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced August 27 that United Furniture Industries NC, LLC is expanding operations in Forsyth County. The company plans to create 200 new jobs and invest \$5.2 million over the next three years in Winston-Salem.

"This is a significant expansion by United Furniture Industries and adds to the large workforce the company already has in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "We continue to work day-in and day-out to not only bring new businesses to North Carolina, but to help those that are already here expand and create even more jobs. I am also happy that United Furniture Industries will revitalize the historic Weeks plant as part of this project," continued Governor McCrory.

United Furniture Industries is based in Mississippi and is a domestic leader in manufacturing of upholstery products. The company holds exclusive licensing agreements as the U.S. manufacturer of Simmons Upholstery. United Furniture Industries employs 940 people at four North Carolina facilities in Randolph, Davidson and Forsyth counties. As part of the expansion, the company is combining its manufacturing and distribution hub at a new, larger location in Winston-Salem at the renovated historic Weeks plant.

"United Furniture Industries has had a manufacturing presence in North Carolina for many years," said Secretary Decker. "This announcement of 200 additional jobs builds on that presence. It also revitalizes the historic Weeks plant, which is a great symbol of Winston-Salem's textile heritage."

"United Furniture Industries is pleased to announce our continued expansion in North Carolina at the former Hanes Mill Weeks facility," said Larry George, president of United Furniture Industries. "I would like to thank all those individuals and organizations at both the state and local level, who have contributed time and effort to this project. We look forward to expanding manufacturing activities to this facility."

Other partners that helped with this project include: Economic Development Partnership of N.C., N.C. Community Colleges, Forsyth Technical Community College, Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board, Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem.

[Read more.](#)

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qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Western Piedmont Community College, Burke Development, Inc., Burke County and the Town of Valdese.

[Read more.](#)

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## Yarn Manufacturer Doubling its Workforce in Alamance County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker recently announced that CS Carolina, Inc. is expanding operations in Alamance County. The company plans to create 22 new jobs and invest \$7.3 million over the next three years in Burlington.

"It's crucial that we continue to create an environment where our existing businesses can expand," said Governor McCrory. "North Carolina's manufacturing workforce help companies like CS Carolina grow. We welcome these new jobs to Alamance County and look forward to CS Carolina's contribution to continuing our state's long history in textile manufacturing."

"Textile manufacturing is a rich part of North Carolina's history," said Secretary Decker. "It is great to see this yarn manufacturer build upon its presence in the Piedmont and double its workforce in Alamance County."

"We believe in the revival of the textile industry in North Carolina," said In Tae Joo, president of CS Carolina. "We are excited to help lead the way with our investments in the latest technology and our new expansion."

CS Carolina, Inc. manufacturers, sells and distributes yarn. CS Carolina employs 27 workers in Alamance County. As part of its expansion, the company will relocate its plant from Swepsonville to Burlington, retaining those jobs and adding to the workforce. The need for a larger building was the catalyst for the company's expansion.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Alamance County Community College, Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce, Alamance County, the City of Burlington and N.C. Ports.

[Read more.](#)

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## N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Approves Fifth Round of Grants

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon



N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker (center) with Gastonia Mayor John Bridgeman and Ring Stafford, Rotary Club of Gastonia President

## Secretary Decker Visits Gastonia

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker delivered keynote remarks August 28 at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Gastonia.

Gastonia's Mayor, John Bridgeman and Club president Ring Stafford welcomed the Secretary back to her hometown for the speaking engagement at the Gastonia Conference Center. Decker grew up in Gastonia.

Secretary Decker addressed North Carolina's current economic conditions and discussed the tools necessary to create and grow businesses in the state.

[Commerce Secretary Decker addresses Rotary](#) (Gaston Gazette - August 29)



## N.C. Merchandise Export Sales Climb Nearly 3 Percent Over 2013

Evidence is adding up to show North Carolina's economy continues to strengthen under Governor Pat McCrory's economic policies. Exports increased 2.7 percent in the first half of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013, growing from \$14.9 billion to \$15.3 billion.

"North Carolina products are in greater demand across the world," said Governor McCrory. "We will continue to work to make it easier for North Carolina companies to market their goods and services overseas. I expect our exports to continue

Decker and Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell announced August 21 that the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved eight grants or loans totalling \$9 million with the commitment of more than 220 new jobs.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. The grants-making programs of the new division include assistance for building reuse and restoration as well as infrastructure including water and sewer.

The RIA meets bimonthly to review and approve grants specifically targeted to assist with economic development and job creation in the rural areas of North Carolina. A [summary of the latest round of grants can be reviewed here](#).



## Governor McCrory Applauds N.C. Commission on Workforce Development for Skills Gap Report and Recommendations

Governor Pat McCrory applauded a new report issued by the Commission on Workforce Development that shows North Carolina can narrow the skills gap by increasing direct collaboration between critical industries and the state's job training programs. The report was issued at the joint Education Cabinet and Commission on Workforce Development meeting held August 20 at the McKimmon Center on the North Carolina State campus.

"As I travel the state and meet with businesses both small and large, sometimes a troubling theme is evident according to business owners - that workers don't have the skills that employers need," said Governor McCrory. "While the skills gap is a challenging problem, this report gives us sound, data-



to grow as more international buyers learn about the quality and value of North Carolina products."

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, North Carolina's merchandise export sales for the first half of 2014 outpaced the 2013 figures for the same period in many destinations, including South Africa (147.2 percent), Dominican Republic (38.7 percent), Belgium (29.9 percent), Hong Kong (27.6 percent), Saudi Arabia (26.9 percent), Mexico (18.9 percent) and Japan (6.1 percent). Key merchandise export categories include chemicals, machinery, transportation equipment, computer and electrical products, and textiles. Other export categories with high growth include electrical equipment, appliances and components, food products and wood products.

"Exports have not only increased for our traditional industries, such as textiles and food, but also for many of our newer industries as well," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "For example, we are seeing increased exports in computers as well as electrical equipment made in North Carolina."

[Read more.](#)



*(Left-Right) Norris Tolson, outgoing President of the N.C. Biotech Center; N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and Major General (retired) Cornell Wilson, Military Advisor to Gov. Pat McCrory*

## Summit Showcases N.C.'s Capacity to Tackle BioDefense Issues

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker offered welcoming remarks at the N.C. BioDefense Summit 2014, held August 26 at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. The conference featured speakers from federal, industry and academic organizations sharing their perspectives on the challenges of deploying innovative life science technologies to difficult military problems.

The summit was designed to raise awareness of North Carolina's life science defense assets, identify opportunities for North Carolina technologies to address Department of Defense needs, and to create opportunities for partnerships aimed at technology development.

Download several of the presentations delivered at the summit as well as the conference agenda at the [N.C. Biotech Center's website.](#)

driven strategies for narrowing it. By doing all that we can as a state to develop and nurture our valuable workers' skills, we will strengthen our economy and help North Carolina thrive."

The Commission surveyed employers to find out why businesses found it difficult to fill certain positions. The Commission compiled results of the employer survey and developed recommendations on how to better train workers in the skill sets required by businesses.

Read more about the Commission's findings and [download the full report here.](#)

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## Governor Pat McCrory Announces 550-Mile Natural Gas Pipeline in Eastern North Carolina

Governor Pat McCrory announced September 2 that a proposed 550-mile natural gas pipeline will bring hundreds of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity to North Carolina.

"The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is one of the largest projects of its type in the nation and represents a significant investment in our state," said Governor McCrory. "This project will drive economic growth and create much-needed jobs for eastern North Carolina. In addition, this new interstate natural gas pipeline will provide our entire state with new access to abundant, clean, reliable and competitively priced supplies of natural gas."

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be a \$4.5 billion joint venture between Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, and AGL Resources and is expected to begin delivering natural gas to customers in late 2018.

The project is expected to create approximately 738 jobs each year in North Carolina during the construction phase, which will have an economic impact of \$680 million. The pipeline is also expected to create 52 permanent jobs.

The pipeline is designed to transport 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, originating in Harrison County, West Virginia, traveling through Virginia, and ending in Robeson County, North Carolina. The natural gas will come from the Utica and Marcellus shale basins in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The interstate pipeline would be the state's second and is expected to hasten the transition from coal-burning power plants to natural gas, which is a much more environmentally friendly fuel. The pipeline will enter the state in Northampton County and travel southwest through parts of Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson and

Cumberland counties before ending at Piedmont Natural Gas transmission facilities in Robeson County.

## Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Jan. 1 - September 8, 2014

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	235
<b>Projects announced:</b>	79
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	8,323
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$1.0B
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	469
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	12,481

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Facebook: Our Data Centers Add \\$0.5bn to Economy](#) (*Datacenter Dynamics* - September 4)
- [McCrory: Proposed Gas Pipeline To Bring Economic Benefits To Region](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - September 2)
- [North Carolina's GDP Grows 9th Fastest in the Nation](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - August 25)
- [Daimler Trucks Makes Company's 3 Millionth Truck at Rowan Plant](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - August 22)

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