

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue at the Cree announcement

Cree to add 575 green jobs

Durham-based LED lighting manufacturer [Cree](#) announced Oct. 8 that it will add 575 green jobs over the next three years, 275 of which will be added by the end of 2009. Gov. Bev Perdue was at the company for the announcement.

"Green jobs are a cornerstone of my vision for building a 21st-century global economy in North Carolina," Gov. Bev Perdue said. "This job announcement fits perfectly with my plan to grow a world-leading green economy in North Carolina that turns green into gold for decades to come."

Cree has also begun manufacturing and assembling LED lighting products with Flextronics in Mecklenburg County.

"We are seeing tremendous growth for LED lighting," said Cree CEO Chuck Swoboda. "Energy-efficient lighting has its roots right here in North Carolina, and Cree is proud to be bringing more green jobs to our state."

Cree's industry-leading line of LED lights, including recessed downlights and troffer replacements, began North Carolina production in August 2009.



Pamlico Sound towers to test wind energy

Duke Energy and UNC-Chapel Hill are working out the details of a contract to develop wind as an energy source off the coast of North Carolina. A test program would build one to three wind towers in Pamlico Sound. University researchers would use the program to test the towers' impact on the environment among other issues. Gov. Bev Perdue was quoted in the Sept. 26 edition of *The News & Observer* as telling a gathering of a few hundred beach dwellers in Buxton that North Carolina has a chance to be a "global leader in green energy." Perdue stressed that green energy would help the environment and create jobs.

[Pamlico Sound towers to test wind energy](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Sept. 26)

Crisco helps celebrate NetApp expansion

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on Oct. 7, helped dedicate a \$65 million computer center in Research Triangle Park for [NetApp](#), a California-based data storage provider.

The storage and data management solutions company said the center will allow for significant savings due to its efficiency-focused design. The RTP facility has been online since April but the company held an official grand opening ceremony Oct. 7. In 2007, the state announced a Job Development Investment Grant for NetApp's expansion project, expected to create 646 new jobs and invest \$41.5 million over 10 years.

[NetApp bucks the trend, throws a party](#) (Oct.

[Cree adding more than 500 jobs over three years](#) (localtechwire, Oct. 9)

[Cree plans to add 575 workers](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Oct. 9)

Israeli fiber company brings \$17 Million Investment to Granville County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Oct. 12 announced that Shalag Industries Ltd., an international supplier of nonwoven fabrics used in the hygiene and wipes markets, will open a new plant in Granville County. The company will invest more than \$17 million and create 42 jobs in Oxford. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$110,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"North Carolina is home to more nonwoven textile plants than anywhere else in the United States, and the U.S. is home to more nonwoven textile plants than anywhere else in the world," Perdue said. "Our business-friendly policies, superb quality of life and skilled, productive workforce are helping companies build success in our state."

Shalag Industries, headquartered in Upper Galilee, Israel, produces nonwoven fabrics primarily from polypropylene, polyester and viscose fibers. The fabric is used in the production of dry and wet wipes, diapers and personal hygiene products. The company's major customers include Johnson & Johnson, Nicepak and Kimberly Clark. Commerce's Dallas Hardenbrook was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

Bio expo in Raleigh this week

IBC Life Science's BioProcess International Conference & Exhibition (BPI) is at the Raleigh Convention Center Oct. 12-16. This five-year-old event, being held in North Carolina for the first time, has become the largest, most well-respected forum focusing on technical, regulatory and strategic planning challenges in the manufacturing of biotherapeutics. BPI allows 1,500 industry experts and colleagues to interact across various disciplines of biopharmaceutical manufacturing to develop valuable partnerships and gain a competitive advantage for continuous improvement. Commerce staff will assist the N.C. Biotechnology Center in staffing its booth during the show. [Learn more.](#)

Commerce announces awards for Workforce Excellence

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on Oct. 9 announced two companies and four North Carolinians as recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development for 2009. The awards honor individuals and businesses for outstanding accomplishments and contributions in helping North Carolina achieve its workforce development goals.

"North Carolina's workers are productive, hard working and highly skilled, and these companies and individuals in particular have demonstrated a commitment to building on those strengths and our state's workforce excellence," Crisco said. "I congratulate these award winners for their determination and innovation in helping make our employees among the very best in the nation." The N.C. Commission on

8, 2009)

Raleigh-Durham on list of 'America's Smartest Cities'

Web site The Daily Beast has voted the Raleigh-Durham area No. 1 on its list of "America's Smartest Cities." Stating that the area has "just about every intangible useful in attracting and developing a smart populace," the site praises Research Triangle Park, and local universities and schools. The site also notes that the fact that Raleigh is a state capitol also means the area is home to "engaged political minds." San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Boston, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Denver round out the top 5. [Read more.](#)

'Sportsnc' gears up for TEAMS conference

More than 30 delegates from North Carolina are marketing the state under the brand "sportsnc" at this year's [Travel, Events And Management in Sports](#) (TEAMS) conference in New Orleans, La. Running Oct. 13-17, TEAMS sessions, appointments and trade show offer a variety of opportunities for those with sporting event sites and destinations to meet with those who have sporting event rights holders. Delegates from North Carolina include sports commissioners, sports directors and various other sports development leaders.

Charlotte among cities seeking World Cup games

Twenty-seven cities and 32 stadiums -- including Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte -- are vying to be included in the United States bid for the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup. The USA Bid Committee invites everyone to read more about each one of these cities, learn about their soccer legacy and their respective stadiums and most importantly, sign the petition to bring soccer to a particular area.

Last held in the U.S. in 1994, the World Cup games draw thousands of fans, with an anticipated economic impact of nearly \$500 million. To vote for Charlotte or to read more about the U.S. bid for the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cups [click here.](#)

Commerce client's product featured at White House

International Trade Division client business [The Elumenati](#) joined a White House event Oct. 7 to display a portable, inflatable GeoDome Theater that uses digital

Workforce Development recognized the recipients Oct. 8 at an awards ceremony during the 2009 Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro. [Click here for a list of the winners.](#)

Parachute maker brings 375 jobs to Person County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Oct. 6 announced North American Aerodynamics Inc., a national manufacturer of parachutes for military and sports uses, will expand in Person County. The company will invest nearly \$900,000 and create 375 jobs in Roxboro. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

North American Aerodynamics Inc., a privately held company founded in 1964, produces the globally distributed Parafoil Accuracy Parachute Canopy and parachutes for the sports and military sectors. The company currently has 45 employees, along with 55 seasonally furloughed workers, at its headquarters and manufacturing facility in Person County.

The company, which recently secured a new military contract, plans to expand and renovate two existing nearby buildings to meet increased manufacturing demands. The expanded production will include cutting, sewing and assembly of cargo and flare parachutes for military operations in Afghanistan. The 375 new jobs will pay an annual average wage of \$23,834. Commerce's Bernard Torain was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

N.C. EDA to hold fall conference in Concord

The N.C. Economic Developers Association is holding its fall conference Oct. 13-14 in Concord. The conference, titled "Connecting to Key Industry Sectors," will highlight industries such as energy, biotechnology and military/aerospace. Scheduled speakers will include Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and Assistant Sec. for Energy John Morrison will speak at the event. Other speakers include Will Austin, N.C. Military Foundation; Marjorie Benbow, N.C. Biotechnology Center; Jack Chandler, Catawba County; Pat Coward, Triumph Actuation Systems, LLC; Clyde Higgs, N.C. Research Campus; Ken Russell, David H. Murdock Research Institute; and Mark Sorrells, Golden LEAF Foundation. [Learn more.](#)



(Left to right) John Terlingo, KBI Biopharma; Jay Hadan, iBiotech; Russ Sawchuk, foreign trade representative with Commerce's Canada office; Tom Jung, KBI Biopharma; and Joseph Conaty,

technology to surround audiences with virtual reality projections. The theater was part of the White House "Star Party," hosted by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and D'nardo Colucci of The Elumenati set up the GeoDome Theater on the White House lawn to give interactive dome presentations on astronomy to middle-school students. The Elumenati has a studio in Asheville.

[On the South Lawn, A White House 'Star Party'](#) (The Washington Post, Oct. 7)

Site Selection Magazine touts N.C. economic development

The September edition of Site Selection magazine features an extensive article on economic development efforts in general, and plans to build an Apple data center in Catawba County in particular. Titled "Tar Heel Transition," the article briefly outlines the partnerships between Commerce, Catawba County Economic Development Corps., Gov. Bev Perdue and others who made the Apple deal a reality. The article also points out that when two data centers move into an area, such as Google and Apple in the Foothills, the existing infrastructure tends to lure others, too. The article also names aerospace as another growth sector poised to revive North Carolina's economy, and quotes Perdue as saying she wants to "create an aerospace-military sector in North Carolina unlike any we have ever imagined." [Read more.](#)

AdvantageWest to host ARRA forum

[AdvantageWest](#) will hold an Oct. 15 forum exploring opportunities for North Carolina businesses in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus program. The program is free and will take place at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College's Enka campus.

For more information, contact City of Asheville ARRA Project Manager Brenda Mills at (828) 259-8050 or bmills@ashevillenc.gov.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by Commerce's Division of Business and Industry 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

Commerce business development manager.

Commerce participates in BioContact

The International Trade Division participated in the [BioContact](#) partnering meeting in Quebec City Oct. 7-8. Roughly 800 scientists and decision makers met at this international life sciences forum to discuss their discoveries and sustain the interpersonal relationships vital to turn those discoveries into life saving medicines. North Carolina has many companies active in Canada and working with Canadian partners.



(Left-right) Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, Gen. Dan McNeill, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Gov. Bev Perdue and Gen. Buck Kernan. Gen. McNeill and Gen. Kernan are members of the N.C. Military Foundation.

Correction

An article in the Oct. 6 edition of SYNC regarding the Association of the U.S. Army expo in Washington D.C. misspelled the name of Gen. Buck Kernan, and neglected to mention the role of [The N.C. Military Foundation](#) in facilitating the event. The foundation facilitated the meeting between Gov. Bev Perdue and Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, and Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the nation's first female four-star general. The foundation also organized Perdue's schedule for the visit. SYNC regrets the error.

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 - Oct. 12, 2009

New projects assigned:	343
Projects announced:	88
Jobs created:	9,898
Capital invested:	\$2.24B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,168
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	20,435

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Shuler: Tourism bill will help Western North Carolina](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, Oct. 9)
- [New MTCC program is fast track to jobs](#) (McDowell News, Oct. 9)
- [Perdue defends business-recruitment incentives](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Oct. 8)

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