



KSM Castings USA Expands Manufacturing Presence in Cleveland County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary **John E. Skvarla, III**, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced March 10 that KSM Castings USA is expanding its operations in Cleveland County, creating 80 new jobs during the coming five years. The German manufacturer of automotive components will invest \$80 million at its facility in Shelby.

"KSM's rapid growth in Cleveland County underscores the continued success of automotive components manufacturing across North Carolina," said **Governor McCrory**. "The expansion by this major automotive supplier keeps that momentum going."

KSM Castings USA is a unit of the KSM Castings Group, a leading producer of automotive lightweight components for chassis, transmissions, engines and steering. Honored as one of Germany's most innovative companies, KSM Castings was founded in 1947. It arrived in North Carolina in 2013 as the growth of its U.S. customer base led to the establishment of a 120,000-square-foot facility in Shelby. In addition to KSM's state-of-the-art facility in Cleveland County, the firm operates seven production plants in Germany, China and the Czech Republic with a total of 3,300 employees.

"North Carolina is the Southeast's No. 1 state for manufacturing jobs," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "Our talent pool and business-friendly environment make North Carolina the smart choice for global manufacturers across nearly every industry sector."

North Carolina is home to 290 automotive manufacturing establishments. The sector employs about 26,000 workers in



Governor McCrory presents a commemorative fine china plate to Uniquetex President and CEO Benny Deng

Chinese Textile Company to Bring 150 Jobs to Cleveland County

Uniquetex, LLC, Inc. intends to build a 150-person workforce in the Town of Grover over the coming five years. Uniquetex is investing \$31.6 million in a production facility there, its first in the United States.

"Textile manufacturing is one of North Carolina's greatest traditional industries, and it is still growing," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "Our state is the ideal destination for globally-positioned, innovation-driven textile companies like Uniquetex."

Uniquetex manufactures nonwoven fabrics for use by medical and healthcare providers, as well as other industries. The company is a joint venture between Foshan Nanhai Beautiful Nonwoven Co., Ltd., one of China's largest nonwoven textile businesses and Wenzhou Chaolong Textile Machinery Co., Ltd., a Zhejiang, China-based developer of equipment and technologies for nonwoven textile manufacturing.

"Uniquetex's selection of Cleveland County highlights all the reasons North Carolina leads the Southeast in manufacturing employment," said **N.C. Secretary of Commerce John Skvarla**. "I am confident that our state's productive workforce, competitive costs and ready access to global

the state.

The company's expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$320,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

Joining [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) in helping facilitate KSM's expansion is the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), [NCWorks](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Cleveland County](#), the [City of Shelby](#), and the [Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership](#).

[Read more.](#)



The prototype of a license plate featuring North Carolina's new brand. Artist concept subject to change.

Sign Up for New State Brand License Plate

Applications continue to pour into the N.C. Brand Team based at Commerce from people across the state interested in displaying the North Carolina brand logo on their cars, trucks and other licensed vehicles.

N.C. Commerce is leading the campaign to issue the new license plate, which will be the latest option for motorists under the N.C. Department of Transportation's specialty license plate program. Plans for the plate include the inspirational tagline "Nothing Compares" along with the new state brand logo, a green and blue "NC" encompassing the outline of a long leaf pine, symbolic of our state's deep historic roots and scenic diversity from the mountains to the sea.

To begin the process of claiming your new 'Nothing Compares' plate, visit this special page on Commerce's website: nccommerce.com/nc-license-plate.

Show your pride on your ride in North Carolina: where everything is possible and Nothing Compares!



markets will strongly support the company's ambitious growth strategy."

"We are extremely excited to start up our first U.S. operations in Cleveland County," said **Benny Deng, company CEO/President.**

"The combination of a skilled workforce, access for quality transportation infrastructure and the pro-business attitude of the community is what attracted us here."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$800,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

Numerous state and local allies worked with the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) and [N.C. Commerce](#) in supporting Uniquetex's location plans. They include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Cleveland County](#), the [Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership](#), and [Gardner-Webb University](#).

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Main Street Conference Kicks Off Tomorrow in Goldsboro

North Carolina's largest downtown revitalization conference gets underway this Wednesday, March 16th in Goldsboro. Commerce's NC Main Street Center will host the three-day conference offering learning sessions, tours, downtown exploration and networking opportunities with downtown professionals, elected officials, consultants and volunteers.

More than 500 participants are expected to attend.

The conference theme - Soaring with Main Street - references both the conference location, adjacent to the state's largest Air Force Base and the tremendous economic successes achieved through the Main Street program across the state.

Keynote speakers include Pamela Herrmann, bestselling author and President of The Paragon Effect and Joe Borgstrom, Principal and Managing Partner of Place & Main

Registration Opens for SEUS-CP Conference

The 9th annual Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces Alliance will be held in Nashville, Tennessee May 26 - 28, 2016. The registration period is now open for North Carolina business executives interested in attending.

The annual business-to-business conference brings together business partners from the Southeast and Canada to establish relationships with business and industry leaders from a wide variety of sectors. The 2016 event will be focused on Healthcare, Entertainment, and Transportation.

Companies working in the following sectors or disciplines are especially encouraged to attend:

- For healthcare: hospitals, IT & equipment, management, and medical devices
- In entertainment: film, media & music, business & intellectual property
- In transportation: watercraft, auto, rail & air, advanced manufacturing & logistics.

Member provinces in the SEUS-CP Alliance include Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

For more information contact [Liz Isley at the Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#)



Prevention Partners Releases New Report Card

The 2016 NC Regional Prevention Report Card has been released by Prevention Partners, a nonprofit organization based in Chapel Hill. The report, which shows how health factors vary across North Carolina's eight Prosperity Zones, evaluated indicators such as education, unemployment, food insecurity, tobacco use, obesity, and life expectancy rates.

"When we work together to improve people's health, everyone benefits," said **Dr. Patricia Mitchell, N.C. Commerce Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development**. "We applaud employers who help people in their organizations lead healthier lives because good health is not just good for their employees, it's good for our overall economy."

"Having access to exercise opportunities and affordable healthy

Advisors. Herrmann will outline two key metrics that critically impact the success of our Main Street communities and Borgstrom will examine the role that Main Street districts play in the current big economic picture, their importance in the future and what communities are doing to strengthen them.

In conjunction with the conference, the annual North Carolina Main Street Awards Reception and Program will be held on Thursday, March 17 and the Main Street Champions Recognition will be held on Friday, March 18. These two events recognize outstanding projects taking place in Main Street downtowns throughout the state and honors the efforts of those dedicated individuals who have gone the extra mile to make their downtowns thriving places.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the NC Main Street Center. North Carolina is one of the oldest and most successful Main Street programs in the country. There are 94 designated North Carolina Main Street and Small Town Main Street communities that participate in the program and together, they have experienced more than \$2.37 billion in investment, more than 5,000 new businesses have opened and nearly 20,000 new jobs have been created in the downtown districts.



NC Competes for Jobs Tour Stops at Brunswick Community College March 23

Governor Pat McCrory invites local community leaders to join **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla** and his economic development and workforce team for the *NC Competes for Jobs* Tour, stopping at Brunswick Community College next Wednesday, March 23.

The session will convene at 1:00 p.m.

The *NC Competes for Jobs* events offer attendees a fast-paced, information-packed session outlining solutions N.C. Commerce offers to local leaders for the work of growing their local economies.

Attendees learn more about:

- Grants and loans available for local economic development

foods play a major role in health outcomes, and are more changeable than more complex societal issues," said **Prevention Partners President and CEO, Meg Molloy**. "Employers and school leaders play a major role in health by the way they structure the workplace and school environments. We are pleased that over 400 businesses, schools, government, and healthcare organizations are working with us to build healthy places, and thank the many new leaders that have stepped forward to build a culture of health in their own organizations and communities."

To review the report card results, visit forprevention.org.

- Available assistance to plan and build local infrastructure, water and sewer
- Finding and training local workers, using the state's NCWorks system
- Regulatory reforms to the state's business climate
- Changes in the state's tax rates
- The team at N.C. Commerce, and how to contact the right people who can help

There is still time to RSVP for this event; to do so, send an email to rsvp@nccommerce.com. For information about future tour stops, [email James Estes in the Secretary's office](#).

N.C. in the News

- ['We're here to help:' N.C. commerce officials talk economic development](#) (*Richmond County Daily Journal* - March 14)
- [Siemens celebrates 700th power generator from Charlotte plant](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - March 14)
- [Visit NC 365 Conference held in Cherokee](#) (*Cherokee One Feather* - March 14)
- [Big economic news: Cleveland getting 230 new jobs, \\$112 million investment](#) (*Shelby Star* - March 10)
- [Secretary of Commerce discusses economic development](#) (*The-Dispatch.com* - Davidson County - March 10)
- [Crowdsourcing bill, Economic Development Partnership highlighted during NCEDA conference](#) (*Shelby Star* - March 9)
- [Warner to leave Laurinburg for regional industrial post](#) (*Laurinburg Exchange* - March 9)
- [By GDP, N.C. had fastest growing large economy in nation](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - March 8)
- [Triad startup wins \\$750K grant](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 4)
- [Hundreds attend regional job fair](#) (*Rocky Mount Telegram* - March 4)
- [Wilmington-based Surgilum Finds Audience, Resources At CED Conference](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - March 3)

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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