

syncTM Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce

Toshiba bringing 194 jobs to Charlotte

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 28 that Toshiba America Nuclear Energy Corp., a nuclear power plant engineering and construction management company, will open its national project management and engineering center in Mecklenburg County. The company plans to invest \$2.8 million and create 194 new jobs in Charlotte during the next five years.

The state's Economic Investment Committee met April 28 and voted to award a Job Development Investment Grant to Toshiba America Nuclear Energy Corp. to facilitate this new project. While wages will vary by position, the company plans to create new jobs with an average annual wage of \$122,037, not including benefits. This greatly exceeds the Mecklenburg County average annual wage of \$49,400.

Toshiba America Nuclear Energy Corp., based in Virginia, is part of Toshiba America Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Toshiba Corp. The company markets and sells advanced boiling water nuclear reactors (ABWR) to be constructed in the United States and provides engineering, licensing, construction management, maintenance and other services for nuclear power plants. The company also sells turbines and other major equipment for nuclear power plants.

The company is the prime contractor for the construction of two nuclear reactors planned for Texas, near Houston. These facilities, subject to a license application pending before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, have the potential to be among the first new reactors built in the nation in more than 30 years. [Read more.](#)



The Dept. of Commerce's International Trade Division led by Director Jean Davis (seated, center), including representatives from offices in Asia, Canada and Mexico, gathered April 24 for a session

Charlotte Regional Partnership to meet with Midwestern businesses, advisors

Following a successful visit with West Coast companies and site location advisors, the Charlotte Regional Partnership is reaching out to potential clients in the Midwest.

In March, David Swenson, the Charlotte Regional Partnership's vice president of economic services, met with more than a dozen companies, clients and site location consultants in Los Angeles and San Francisco. As a result, several of those contacts have expressed a strong interest in the Charlotte region.

On April 20 Swenson began a five-day marketing trip to Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh. The partnership sent information to hundreds of targeted companies and compiled data on each of the cities Swenson visited to compare business costs and culture with that of the Charlotte area.



DOT develops statewide logistics plan

At the 2009 N.C. Site Selectors Invitational in Pinehurst April 19-21, Dept. of Transportation Sec. Gene Conti stressed the importance of the statewide logistics plan to address the long-term infrastructure needs of the state. The plan, developed by DOT, along with the Dept. of Commerce and transportation and business stakeholders throughout the state, includes the identification of priority needs, multimodal solutions that support key industries and a timetable to meet these needs. The plan is available [on the DOT](#)

on business in Canada at Wake Tech's Western Wake Campus in Cary.

Go Global Road Show boasts record attendance

The team from Commerce's International Trade Division wrapped up the highly successful 2009 [Go Global Road Show](#) last week.

Representatives from North Carolina's seven foreign offices visited six cities across the state as part of the Road Show. Events were held in Charlotte, Asheville, High Point, Kinston, Fayetteville and Raleigh. Fayetteville was added this year based on demand from local businesses and economic developers. Many locations saw record crowds for the luncheon presentations.

More than 130 North Carolina companies registered to attend. Companies had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with trade representatives for export counseling and to join the International Trade Division team for five educational luncheon sessions on doing business in various international markets.

The trade representatives from Commerce's international offices commented favorably on the quality of the companies in attendance. Companies from all industry sectors such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, telecommunications, plastics and chemicals sought advice on the best markets for their products and services.

Perdue announces economic recovery workshops for local representatives, businesses

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 23 that the N.C. Office of Economic Recovery and Investment (OERI) will hold a series of workshops across the state to provide information and guidance on how the federal recovery funds will be administered. The first workshop is scheduled for April 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Winston-Salem State University's Dillard Auditorium.

Workshop attendees will have an opportunity to hear from representatives of state and federal agencies administering the recovery funds. These representatives will discuss the current status of funds in their agencies, detail upcoming opportunities and explain the mechanisms for participation in the process.

The OERI Web site, www.NCRecovery.gov, details the role of the office as the official coordinator, monitor and clearinghouse for federal economic recovery funds designated for the state. Workshop details are available at the site. [Read more](#).

Nash County to add manufacturer, 134 jobs

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 22 that LS Tractor USA LLC, a distributor of high-end compact tractors and implements, will establish its U.S. headquarters and a distribution and manufacturing facility in Nash County. The company plans to invest nearly \$14 million and create 134 new jobs during the next five years that will pay an average annual wage of \$41,500, not including benefits.

"North Carolina is a leader in heavy equipment manufacturing

website.

N.C. to celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week

North Carolina's celebration of National Travel and Tourism Week will kick off with events scheduled in Raleigh on Tuesday, May 12, and continue throughout the week with celebrations at its nine Welcome Centers across the state.

The N.C. Travel Industry Association (NC TIA) has scheduled a "Tourism Day Extravaganza" at the Legislative Building in Raleigh to emphasize to lawmakers the importance of the tourism industry to the state, its tax base and its economy.

[View scheduled Travel and Tourism Day activities](#) for the welcome centers.

N.C. could benefit from president's high-speed rail proposal

President Obama announced this month a proposal to invest \$8 billion from the economic stimulus package and \$1 billion annually for five years, starting in 2010, on a comprehensive high-speed rail system. This would include the Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor, roughly 450 miles from Charlotte through Raleigh and Richmond to Washington. The result could be a train ride that is faster than a car trip between Raleigh and Charlotte. [See details of the announcement](#).

The president said the United States must move quickly to start building high-speed rail lines that would cut energy costs, clean the air and ease congestion on roads and in the sky. Stimulus grants will make trains faster on existing lines and help develop new corridors to connect cities that don't have rail service now, he said. U.S. Travel Association President Roger Dow expressed the organization's strong support for the Obama plan. [See Dow's remarks](#).

Pat Simmons, who heads the N.C. Dept. of Transportation's Rail Division, said the state would seek stimulus money to double-track a busy 26-mile section between Greensboro and Charlotte, which now carries six passenger trains and more than 40 freight trains each day. The state also is likely to seek funds to buy locomotives, improve the Cary rail station and build grade separations – bridges that separate cars and trains at rail crossings.

[N.C. has shot at high-speed trains](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, April 16)

IAMC to hold Spring Professional Forum in Asheville

and service, thanks to our skilled workforce and business-friendly policies," Gov. Perdue said. "Our state continues to attract global companies looking for a strong commercial climate, an unparalleled quality of life and opportunities to provide the good jobs our citizens have come to expect."

LS Tractor USA is a wholly owned subsidiary of LS Mtron Ltd., a heavy equipment manufacturer based in South Korea. LS Tractor will open a Rocky Mount facility that initially will import LS brand tractors from South Korea and distribute them nationwide. The company then plans to expand in Nash County and begin manufacturing and distributing tractor implements. [Read more.](#)

Chowan manufacturer to add 29 jobs

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 21 that MiTek Industries Inc., an international building products, software and equipment supplier, will expand its Edenton operations. The company plans to invest more than \$2 million and create 29 jobs during the next three years in Chowan County.

MiTek Industries, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, is a global supplier of state-of-the-art engineered products and services for the building components industry. The company, headquartered in Missouri, has 49 offices and manufacturing facilities worldwide, including 10 in the United States. Its Edenton operation employs 75 people in an engineering office and building truss component stamping plant. [Read more.](#)

Yadkin manufacturer announces expansion

Local and state officials joined Nonni's Foods representatives April 22 to celebrate the company's expansion plans. The national specialty food company is opening a commercial bakery in Yadkinville, investing \$27 million and adding 172 jobs during the next three years. The expansion was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

Salaries for the 172 new positions will vary by job type, but the average annual wage will be \$29,570, not including benefits. That is more than the Yadkin County average annual wage of \$26,156. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Rep. R. Phillip Haire, Chief Mitchell Hicks of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Dee Freeman, and Park Superintendent Dale A. Ditmanson

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC), a national association of corporate real estate executives and economic developers, will hold its 2009 Spring Professional Forum May 2-6 in Asheville. With an expected attendance of 300, the forum will examine a variety of issues affecting corporate real estate, including global changes reshaping the industrial landscape, the role of real estate in corporate investment decision-making, and the changing U.S. industrial base. This is the first time the forum has been held in North Carolina.

In conjunction with the forum, the Friends of North Carolina will sponsor a dinner for early arrivals on May 2 at The Grove Park Inn. On May 3, the Dept. of Commerce, along with several economic development organizations, will sponsor a welcome reception and dinner at Biltmore Estate. The co-sponsors are AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte Regional Partnership, Duke Energy Carolinas, ElectricCities of North Carolina, Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, N.C. Partnership for Economic Development, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, Piedmont Triad Partnership, Progress Energy and Wilson Economic Development Council. [Read more.](#)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the Division of Business and Industry (B&I) 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.

January - April 27, 2009

New projects assigned:	147
Projects announced:	27
Jobs created:	2,592
Capital invested:	\$484.2 million
Direct Account Interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	572
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	9,084

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

kicks off 75th anniversary

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park kicked off its 75th anniversary celebration with a Governor's Proclamation Ceremony April 24 at Clingman's Dome in Swain County. The event was part of a year-long recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with remarks and the reading of recognition proclamations from Gov. Beverly Perdue and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen.

The event recognized the important role that local citizens and community leaders, state legislators and governors played in establishing the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and paid tribute to the vision and sacrifice of the people of North Carolina and Tennessee. The event also featured members of the states' general assembly delegations, the chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the park superintendent.

The proclamation ceremony celebrated the roles that each of the states and their local leaders played in creating the national park. Find out more about the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#); [get information on the anniversary](#).

Perdue announces steps for workforce recovery in Charlotte

Gov. Bev Perdue on April 22 released the recommendations of her Charlotte-area workforce recovery task force, a group she convened in the first weeks of her administration and headed by UNC Associate Vice President for Economic Development Research, Policy and Planning Leslie Boney. The series of strategic steps focus on providing resources and funding to make it easier for unemployed workers to find new employment. [Read more](#).

- [Longtime Charlotte steel firm closing its doors after 98 years](#) (The Charlotte Observer, April 27)
- [Governors' proclamation ceremony kicks off year long celebration](#) (The Seymour Herald, April 24)
- [Cabarrus prepares again for hit from Philip Morris](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, April 24)
- [Companies interested in Rowan identified](#) (Salisbury Post, April 24)
- [Embarq to lay off 51 in Rocky Mount](#) (Triangle Business Journal, April 23)
- [Partnerships with international markets continued](#) (enctoday.com, April 23)
- [Pipettes at the ready](#) (The Economist, April 16)
- [Asahi closing illustrates ongoing struggles](#) (The Daily Reflector - Greenville, April 22)
- [Philip Morris to close plant in July](#) (The Independent Tribune - Morganton, April 23)
- [Tractor maker moving to Rocky Mount](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, April 22)
- [Wal-Mart to hire 680 area workers](#) (Charlotte Observer, April 22)

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