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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Concord Mayor J. Scott Padgett, Governor Bev Perdue, Celgard President Mitch Pulwer, Polypore International President, CEO and Director Robert (Bob) Toth

Perdue announces 250 jobs with Celgard

Governor Bev Perdue and officials from Charlotte-based Celgard LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Polypore International, Inc., on July 25 announced plans to expand production capacity in Concord and hire an additional 250 employees. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Margie Bukowski was the developer on this project.

The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Grant programs. To meet the targets established in these performance-based grants, the company plans to create 250 jobs and invest a total of \$105 million in Cabarrus County over the next two years.

"Celgard is an innovative North Carolina company that is helping us realize the promise of a greener economy," Perdue said. "We are able to create these 'green collar' jobs, and other skilled jobs across the state, because we have invested in education and built an educated, skilled workforce."

The company is a global leader in the development and production of specialty membranes used predominantly in the lithium battery industry. The expansion is designed to increase production capacity to supply lithium battery manufacturers focused on the Electric Drive Vehicle industry. The company currently employs approximately 600 people in North Carolina.

While salaries will vary by job function, the overall average wage for the 250 new jobs will be \$37,912 not including



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Pfizer Inc. Sanford Site Leader Dennis Jones, and Lee County EDC Director Bob Heuts

Pfizer dedicates biomass boiler at Sanford site

On July 21, Pfizer Inc. held an event at its Sanford site to dedicate a biomass boiler that will use wood chips from local sources to generate steam for heat and power. Pfizer announced that this new \$7.9 million renewable energy system will generate up to 1,971 megawatt hours of electricity per year, cut greenhouse gases by 22 million pounds per year, and is less costly to run than systems using natural gas or fuel oil. The event included Pfizer Site Leader Dennis Jones, Lee County Economic Development Commission Director Bob Heuts and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

[Pfizer's biomass boiler will cut greenhouse gasses.](#) (*The Sanford Herald*, July 22)



(Left-right) Rep. Larry Brown, N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Taipei Economic and

benefits. That is higher than the Cabarrus annual average of \$32,448. [Read more.](#)

[Celgard awarded up to \\$11.7 million incentive package for 250 more jobs](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 25)

Spirit AeroSystems expands work at Global TransPark

Governor Bev Perdue announced July 20 that a new aviation work package is coming to the state. Spirit AeroSystems Inc., one of the world's largest independent suppliers of commercial airplane assemblies, will add a new program to its manufacturing operations at the N.C. Global TransPark in Kinston. Spirit will establish production for the Gulfstream G250 wing at the North Carolina facility. The company anticipates that 150-200 jobs will be created over the next five years as part of this work package. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Rod Forsythe was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina continues to be a leader in the aerospace industry more than 100 years after the Wright Brothers made their historic first flight at Kitty Hawk," said Perdue. "Our community college customized training programs and skilled workforce are critical tools for globally competitive companies like Spirit. This new work package continues Spirit's significant commitment to bring jobs and investment to North Carolina."

The announcement is part of Spirit's overall expansion and existing commitment to create jobs in North Carolina. Spirit already produces a major composite fuselage and leading edge wing spars for the Airbus A350 commercial aircraft at the Global TransPark. The new work package will add metallic structures, as well as a general aviation component to Spirit AeroSystems' operation at the Global TransPark. [Read more.](#)

New federal data show manufacturing thrives in N.C.

According to a report by On Numbers, North Carolina jumped from fifth to third out of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. in manufacturing. A valued part of North Carolina's economy, an analysis of federal data shows that manufacturing accounted for over 19 percent of the gross state product or nearly \$82 billion out of almost \$425 billion in GSP in 2010. North Carolina remains the leading manufacturing state in the South, with only Indiana and Oregon recording higher manufacturing GSP rates.

According to the N.C. Chamber of Commerce, statistics show that manufacturing exports in the state have grown 71 percent since 2003, which is 2.3 times the overall rise in North Carolina's economy for the same period. With over 10,000 manufacturers statewide employing nearly 15 percent of North Carolina's workforce, manufacturing continues to "Thrive in North Carolina."

[N.C. third-most dependent on manufacturing](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, July 18)

Cultural Office in Atlanta Director General Anna Kao, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

International aid comes to N.C. for tornado relief

On July 21, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Rep. Larry Brown and N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall accepted a \$30,000 check from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta for disaster relief efforts in the wake of the April 16 tornados. Director General Anna Kao presented the check at Commerce's downtown Raleigh office.

[International aid comes to N.C. for tornado relief](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, July 22)



N.C. State Ports Authority named Top Green Supply Chain Partner

Inbound Logistics magazine named the NC State Ports Authority to its annual "G75" list of 75 Green Supply Chain Partners. The Authority is one of only four ports named in the list, featured in the magazine's June 2011 issue.

Editors at the publication selected companies that are making sustainability a part of their extended enterprise, demonstrating qualitative progress, and can demonstrate measurable green results and sustainability innovation.

"The N.C. State Ports Authority continues to be an industry leader in sustainable, green practices," said Tom Eagar, CEO, N.C. State Ports Authority. "Through our 'Project Energy' initiative, our ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, as well as our inland ports in Charlotte and Greensboro, are making strides in reducing emissions, converting to electric equipment and other sustainable practices. We are pleased Inbound Logistics has recognized our work and named us to the 'G75.'"

Eagar initiated the Authority-wide "Project Energy" team in 2007 to focus on sustainability and cleaner, greener operations. The program's concentration areas include equipment electrification, fuel conservation,



Staff from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Business and Industry Development team meet with members from Jones County Economic Development Corporation.

Jones County EDC meets with Commerce

Members from the Jones County Economic Development Commission, including Economic Development Consultant Larry Meadows, traveled to Raleigh July 25 to meet with developers from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development. The Jones County group gave an overview of available sites in Maysville, Pollocksville and Trenton, and discussed the advantages the county offers to industries seeking to locate in Eastern North Carolina.

Furniture maker to bring 58 jobs to Burke County

Governor Bev Perdue on July 21 announced that Ekornes ASA, a Norwegian furniture manufacturer, will open a new facility in Burke County. The company plans to create 58 jobs and invest \$1.3 million during the next three years in Morganton. The project was made possible in part by a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"North Carolina continues its long and celebrated history in the furniture industry," said Perdue. "Ekornes is making a commitment to North Carolina, not just because we are the furniture capital of the world, but because our investments in education have built an experienced, highly-skilled workforce, excellent training programs and a top-ranked business climate."

Ekornes ASA is the largest furniture manufacturer in Norway. It owns such brand names as Ekornes®, Stressless® and Svane® that are sold all over the world. Ekornes currently manufactures all furniture at six facilities in Norway. [Read more.](#)

BestSweet to add 37 jobs in Iredell County

Governor Bev Perdue on July 20 announced that BestSweet, a manufacturer of both consumer healthcare and confectionery products, will expand in Iredell County. The company plans to create an additional 37 jobs and invest \$6.4 million during the next three years in Mooresville. The project was made possible in part by a \$50,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

"BestSweet is investing in North Carolina, because they know

emission reduction, alternative and renewable energies, recycling, and hybrid technologies. By the end of 2011, potential demand on the Authority will have been reduced by approximately 730,000 watts when significant lighting replacement projects at both ports are complete including the replacement of 470 high mast pole fixtures and installation of more than 2,700 indoor energy-efficient light fixtures.

"N.C.'s Ports are committed to greener and more environmentally friendly operations," said Eagar. "Project Energy' is helping us achieve those goals, be a good neighbor and a better business partner."

"The companies selected as this year's Green Supply Chain Partners are truly 'walking the walk'," said Felecia Stratton, editor, Inbound Logistics. "These 75 visionaries have a long-standing history of driving efficiencies in their customers' operations and an internal commitment to be as lean and green as possible."

[75 Green Supply Chain Partners](#) (Inbound Logistics, July)

U.S. Air Force improves connectivity with small business community

The U.S. Air Force Office of Small Business Programs has recently implemented several Web-based initiatives at [AirForceSmallBiz.org](#) to improve connectivity between the small business community and the Air Force:

[Locate a Small Business Specialist](#) – Enables companies to search and connect with local Air Force small business specialists within their geographic region. Users can search by state and Air Force Base to retrieve contact information for relevant procurement personnel.

[Register Your Small Business](#) – Enables companies to upload information about their business. Companies can provide information about their products and services, why their firm stands above competing companies, their certified small business status and NAICS codes.

[Contract Opportunities](#) – Features a user-friendly interface for businesses to search and view not only current opportunities but forecasts of projected contracting needs for the coming years. The information and search requests can be easily filtered and sorted by geographic areas such as state or Air Force

North Carolina has invested in its people," said Perdue. "The company's growing commitment to Iredell County and North Carolina is a testament to our knowledgeable, skilled workforce and strong business climate that were built through our investments in education."

BestSweet Inc., based in Mooresville, manufactures both consumer healthcare and confectionery products, across a mix of contract, private label and branded platforms. Over the past 18 months, the company has invested \$14 million in its Mooresville operation, adding 40,000 square feet in manufacturing space and a 140,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility, while adding 70 new jobs. BestSweet currently employs 272 full-time people in Iredell County. BestSweet has acquired a competitor in the northeast and this project will allow the company to bring those production capabilities to North Carolina.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$39,215 plus benefits. The Iredell County average annual wage is \$36,348. [Read more.](#)

N.C. Conservation Trust gets \$2.7M for Scenic Byways

The Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program has awarded \$2.7 million to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina and 10 local land trusts to help with protection of natural, historic, cultural and visual resources along designated scenic byways. The projects funded by the grant will help safeguard scenic farms and critical wildlife habitat, as well as strengthen economies on the byways and expand recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors.

[N.C. conservation trust gets \\$2.7M for scenic byways](#) (The Associated Press, July 18)

New lending program within reach of businesses statewide

A new lending program is making it easier for businesses in every corner of the state to borrow the money they need to retain employees and create new jobs.

The N.C. Capital Access Program has so far enrolled 54 lenders with more than 1,100 branches across the state, and more sign up each week.

"These lenders have committed to helping pick up the speed of economic recovery in North Carolina," said Billy Ray Hall, president of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. "Now we need businesses to take advantage of this opportunity."

The program encourages lenders to consider loans that fall just outside their traditional underwriting standards. It works by creating reserve funds that cover losses in case of default. [Read more.](#)

Base as well as by dollar-value ranges, by purchasing organization and by solicitation type.

[My Alerts](#) – Allows a company to identify current contract opportunities through the search tool and sign up to receive email notifications to help track updates for each opportunity.

[Ask a Question](#) – Allows a small business to submit questions related to conducting business with the Air Force, available small business programs or any contracting-related questions.

[Event Participation Request](#) – Allows anyone who visits the Air Force Small Business website to request an Air Force Small Business Representative to participate in an upcoming event.

[Events Calendar](#) – Enables companies to view upcoming outreach events related to small business and government contracting.

[Submit a Success Story](#) – Provides an opportunity for registered small businesses account holders to submit quantitative results illustrating cost savings and/or increased productivity that they have delivered through Air Force contracts.

[Contact an N.C. Procurement Technical Assistance Center counselor](#) for assistance.

Mount Airy among Best Small Towns in U.S.

USA Today recently listed Mount Airy in a story that explored the Best Small Towns in the U.S. Mount Airy was a runner-up in the Friendliest category, which was won by Walla Walla, Wash.

[The five best small towns in America](#) (*USA Today*, July 23)

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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.

Jan. 1 - July 26, 2011

New projects assigned:	222
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Coastal Living: America's Favorite Seafood Dives includes N.C. sites

Coastal Living magazine has released its "America's Favorite Seafood Dives," an annual guide to the top eateries where food is fried, broiled, grilled, or otherwise slapped on butcher paper for finger-licking, crab-cracking, French fry-munching pleasure. Tortugas' Lie in Nags Head was named the best in North Carolina with the Tasty Contenders including Calabash Seafood Hut in Calabash and Holden Beach Provision Company in Holden Beach. The winners and finalists were chosen by the magazine's readers. Additional North Carolina favorites included Eb & Flo's Steam Bar at Bald Head Island, Jordan's House of Seafood and Oyster Bar at Emerald Isle, The Giggling Mackerel Seafood Grille at Ocean Isle Beach, Big Oak Drive-In and Bar-B-Q at Salter Path, Yacht Basin Provision Company at Southport, and The Raw Bar at Wrightsville Beach.

[The Best Seafood Dives Coast to Coast](#) (*Coastal Living*, July)

Projects announced:	100
Jobs announced:	9,339
Capital investment Announced:	\$1.683B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	916
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	10,790

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Tourism roars in Triangle](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 25)
- [Water levels down at some NC reservoirs](#) (News 14 Carolina, July 24)
- [Warrenton chosen for revitalization program](#) (VANCNews.com, July 20)
- [Honda to add as many as 300 jobs](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, July 12)

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