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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Winston-Salem Business Inc. President Robert Leak, Forsyth County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Plyler, Gov. Bev Perdue, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls and Caterpillar General Manager Mike Murphy (Photo by William Bottomley, WXII)

## Caterpillar to bring 392 jobs to Winston-Salem

Gov. Bev Perdue announced July 30 that Caterpillar Inc., the largest maker of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines in the world, will build a new manufacturing plant in Forsyth County. The company plans to create 392 jobs over the next five years and invest \$426 million. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund.

"Creating jobs is my top priority and this major investment by Caterpillar will be a tremendous benefit to the Triad and our state," said Perdue. "Globally competitive companies realize our tremendous workforce, custom training programs and top-ranked business climate will allow them and their employees to thrive in North Carolina."

Caterpillar currently employs 1,026 full-time workers in Wake, Johnston, Lee, Macon and Burke counties. While individual wages for the 392 additional jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be \$40,482 a year, plus benefits. That is higher than the Forsyth County average of \$40,352. [Read more. Learn more about the automotive, truck and heavy equipment cluster in North Carolina.](#)

[Caterpillar selects Winston-Salem for new \\$426M plant](#) (WXII - Winston-Salem, July 29)

## McKoy named assistant sec. for community development

Henry McKoy has been named assistant sec. for community development for the N.C. Dept. of Commerce. McKoy graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BS in Business Administration and has pursued graduate studies at Duke University in Environmental Management & Policy. His professional career began with Central Carolina Bank where his responsibilities steadily progressed to the role of senior vice president. He has served as a consultant to the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education, as president of CASS Intelligence Networks and as CEO of Fourth-Sector Financial Corporation. McKoy's appointment is effective immediately.

## Crisco interviewed in Biotech Center video

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco is included in a [just-released video from the N.C. Biotechnology Center](#) touting the biotechnology industry in the state. The video highlights North Carolina's cutting-edge life sciences research, education and workforce development programs, economic development incentive tools, and Commerce's partnerships with partners like the Biotech Center.

## Legislators add \$22M to Life Sciences Programs

More than \$22 million in new recurring appropriations was allocated to North Carolina life sciences programs by legislators wrapping up their 2010 short session in July. Budget legislation passed by the General Assembly included \$5 million in additional funding for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, \$5 million for the Biofuels Center of North Carolina and \$10 million for the Institute of Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University. Legislators also approved previously scheduled increases of \$1 million annually for the North Carolina Research Campus at Kannapolis and \$1 million for nanobioscience activities at the A&T



(Left-right) N.C. Rep. Ray Rapp, Gov. Bev Perdue, Madison County Sheriff Buddy Harwood, and N.C. Sen. Joe Sam Queen in front of the Madison County Courthouse in Marshall.

## Gov. Perdue tours Western N.C.

Gov. Bev Perdue was in Western North Carolina early last week for a series of events, including the opening of a residential treatment center for female offenders in Black Mountain. While in Western N.C., she toured the town of Marshall with N.C. Rep. Ray Rapp, N.C. Sen. Joe Sam Queen, and Madison County Sheriff Buddy Harwood. Read Perdue's [blog post](#) on her visit to Western North Carolina.

## AdvantageWest receives funds for clean energy jobs

AdvantageWest has been selected to receive \$479,259 in federal recovery act funds to create clean energy jobs and internships in Western North Carolina. Two other entities in AdvantageWest's 23-county service area, the N.C. Arboretum and Appalachian State University, will also receive funds from the N.C. Energy Office program, in the amounts of \$89,600 and \$485,857, respectively, creating a total of 58 jobs in the region. The grant program was developed with money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

AdvantageWest will place nine interns in 12-month, full-time positions with qualified regional green energy-related businesses. An additional three 12-month fellowship positions will focus on building capacity among local governments in the areas of energy planning and management. Internships will be available to North Carolina residents who are current or recently graduated students of two- and four-year programs, as well as graduate programs, with the goal of placing individuals where they have a strong opportunity to transition into permanent employment. [Read more.](#)

## Rural Center grants to help create 357 jobs

The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center has awarded 20 grants totaling \$4.3 million to create jobs and address clean water needs throughout North Carolina. The grants will assist communities in 17 rural counties and create 357 jobs.

The center's board of directors approved the grants June 30. The grants were made possible by appropriations of the N.C. General Assembly. [Read more.](#)

State/UNC-G Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

"North Carolina's life science sector was one of the few parts of our state's economy that continued to add jobs during the recession," said Sam Taylor, president of NC BIO. "We are extremely pleased that legislators recognize the job-creating potential of our community and found ways to aggressively fund life science programs even in a year when other portions of the budget were deeply cut. We are indeed grateful for the faith that our legislative leaders have placed in the potential of the life science sector to lift both our economy and health of our citizens." [Read more.](#)

## HondaJet project on track at PTI

Honda Aircraft Co. is getting closer to beginning production of the HondaJet at Piedmont Triad International Airport.

The company said last week that it has finished significant electronic tests for the plane and is now beginning intensive stress testing for the distinctive fiber-composite body of the HondaJet to be sure that it can stand up to flight conditions.

[HondaJet project is on track at PTI](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, July 28)

## Asheville Civic Center awarded tourism development grant

The Asheville Civic Center has been awarded a \$2 million dollar grant, to be funded over a four year period, from the Tourism Product Development Fund of the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority, the City of Asheville announced today. The grant will help fund a proposed \$5.45 million dollar renovation of the Asheville Civic Center. The Tourism Product Development Fund, which is funded through the Buncombe County hotel occupancy tax, is dedicated to projects that will increase tourism and overnight lodging.

Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy noted, "This is an incredible opportunity. The Asheville Civic Center is an important economic engine for our city and our region. These funds will allow us to greatly improve the facility -- and these improvements will benefit local residents and tourists alike." [Read more.](#)

## Nanofiber conference scheduled for late August

[Nanofibers for the Third Millennium](#) 2010 will be held in Raleigh Aug. 30-Sept. 1 at the Raleigh Marriott City Center. The conference

## Deadlines approaching for some Energy Office funds

The following are among the RFPs recently announced by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's State Energy Office: Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Technology Funding Opportunity (due Aug 11), Energy Efficiency Projects for Commercial, Industrial and Large Nonprofit Sectors (due Aug. 11), and Energy Efficiency and Block Grant Program – Transportation (due Aug. 27). [Read more.](#)

## Electric car meeting picks Raleigh

The Triangle's reputation as a national hub for electric vehicle development got a big jolt last week with the announcement that Raleigh has been selected to host a major industry conference next year.

The Electric Power Research Institute, the research arm of the power industry, picked the Raleigh Convention Center for its 2011 meeting on the plug-in electric car.

It'll be the first time the confab is held outside California, the nation's undisputed leader in the electric car realm.

The conference features sessions and panel discussions on integrating electric driving into the market. But the big attraction for the public will be the exposition floor, featuring more than 40 exhibitors and a hall full of electric vehicles on display.

[Electric car meeting picks Raleigh](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 27)

## Talecris expands RTP lease

Talecris Biotherapeutics has extended and expanded the lease at its corporate headquarters in Research Triangle Park, a sign that the company expects to maintain a major presence in the region even after it is acquired by Grifols SA of Spain.

Highwoods Properties of Raleigh announced Monday that Talecris had signed a long-term lease for 163,000 square feet in the Research Commons office park. That's 40,000 square feet more than the company previously occupied.

[Talecris expands RTP lease](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 27)

is sponsored by Elmarco, Inc., and The Nonwovens Institute at N.C. State University. This is the third year for the event and the first time it will be hosted in North America after two years in Europe. The objective of the conference is to accelerate the adoption of nanofibers in a wide range of innovative functional products. The conference agenda will be organized into two concurrent sections: Nanofiber Technology and Trends and Nanofibers in Products.

## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of 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 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 - Aug. 2, 2010

New projects assigned:	270
Projects announced:	70
Jobs created:	9,846
Capital invested:	\$1.66B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	777
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	14,108

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Raleigh-Cary fifth in job growth since 2005](#) (Business Journal of the Greater Triad, July 29)
- [Solar makes more sense in North Carolina than nuclear says study](#) (EcoSeed, July 28)
- [Solar panels heat things up at Elon](#) (The Pendulum - Elon College, July 28)
- [IMG deal for ISP creates national franchise](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, July 29)
- [Disney now owns Merscom](#) (The Herald-Sun - Durham, July 29)

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