

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce

## Owens Corning to Create 110 Jobs in Gaston County, N.C.

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Owens Corning (NYSE: OC) will establish a new advanced manufacturing operation in Gaston County. The company plans to create 110 new jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2016 and invest more than \$120 million in the NC Certified Gastonia Technology Park. [Susan Fleetwood](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

This Gaston County facility will enable Owens Corning to expand its glass non-wovens business in North America.

"Owens Corning already has a presence at various facilities throughout the state, and we're thrilled it chose to locate a new segment of its business with us," said Governor McCrory. "Global industry leaders know that North Carolina offers them a strong business climate and skilled workforce, which is what companies like Owens Corning need to succeed."

The new facility is expected to be completed by mid-to-late 2015. It will encompass a state-of-the-art manufacturing line, coating capability, and research and development resources with potential for future expansion.

"Companies with a presence in North Carolina are extremely important to us and we want to do everything we can to grow their footprint here, whether it's through expansion or creation of new business entities, like Owens Corning," said Secretary Decker. "We're elated that Owens Corning will be setting down roots in Gaston County and becoming an active corporate member of Gastonia's community." [Read more.](#)

## Polymer Manufacturer Expansion Brings 76 Jobs to Rutherford County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc., a leading manufacturer of engineered polymer solutions, will expand its operations in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 76 new jobs and invest \$10.6 million over the next four years in Rutherfordton. [David Spratley](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"Creating new jobs in North Carolina is one of my main priorities. We know that our strong business climate, superior infrastructure and talented workforce are very attractive to advanced manufacturers like Trelleborg," said Governor McCrory. "We are keenly focused on working with existing businesses to help them expand right here in North Carolina."

Trelleborg Coated Systems, a division of the Trelleborg Group, headquartered in Lodi Vecchio, Italy, is a leading global supplier of polymer-coated fabrics deployed in several industrial applications. The company is expanding in Rutherfordton with the addition of a new production line to support the growth of the global aerospace market. Trelleborg Coated Systems supplies engineered fabrics for the development of aircraft evacuation slides and life rafts.

"We're thrilled about Trelleborg's growing investment in Rutherfordton and the new jobs they'll create in a rural county hit hard by the recession," said Secretary Decker. "Advanced manufacturing is our heritage and it's also our future in North Carolina." [Read more.](#)

## Governor McCrory Announces Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development

Governor Pat McCrory announced that the 2013 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development were presented on Oct. 17 to three companies and four North Carolinians. The awards honor individuals and businesses for outstanding accomplishments



(Left-right) Billy King and Scott Satterfield of Wilmington Business Development, Governor McCrory's Senior Advisor on Jobs and the Economy Tony Almeida, Richard Nordt of RC Creations, Rick Benton of Wilmington Business Development, and Bernard Torain of the N.C. Department of Commerce

## Seafood Processor to Create 120 Jobs in Pender County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 18 that RC Creations LLC, a seafood processing company, will establish a new facility in Pender County. The company plans to create 120 new jobs in Currie and invest more than \$25 million by the end of 2017. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

"Our location on the Eastern Seaboard and top-notch workforce make North Carolina the perfect place for RC Creations to process and deliver seafood products to markets around the world," said McCrory. "This project demonstrates how investments in customized training programs at community colleges and critical infrastructure can spur job creation."

The Currie production facility will import fresh and frozen seafood from around the world to create ready-to-eat seafood products that are packaged and shipped domestically and internationally. The facility will utilize state-of-the-art technologies to continue to meet and exceed current Global Food Safety Initiatives & Food Safety Modernization Act requirements.

"We're very excited about bringing these new jobs to Pender County, an area that's been hit hard by the recession," said Decker.

RC Creations is a division of Acme Smoked Fish Corporation, based in New York. The four-generation, family-owned business has produced value-added seafood products for more than 75 years.

"We are delighted to have chosen Pender County as the new home for RC Creations. After an extensive multi-state search and selection process, the combination of the area's pro-business climate, motivating incentive offerings and high quality of life, made it the most viable option for our organization's rapid growth. We look forward to providing a safe, reliable and attractive workplace for the residents of Pender County," said RC Creations Vice President of Manufacturing Richard Nordt.

and contributions in helping North Carolina achieve its workforce development goals.

"I congratulate these award recipients for their determination, innovation and commitment to helping make our employees the nation's best," said McCrory. "Our highly skilled workforce is leading our economic recovery."

The N.C. Commission on Workforce Development recognized these outstanding individuals and businesses as part of the 2013 Workforce Development Partnership Conference in Greensboro.

Award recipients are as follows:

Christina Ledford, Camden: *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Adult Participant.*

Amy Arrowood Hensley, Old Fort: *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Youth Participant.*

Brittany Bowman, Sparta: *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Youth Participant.*

JoAnn Shepard, Raleigh: *Wayne Daves Award for Outstanding Achievement in Workforce Development.*

Time Warner Cable of North Carolina: *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.*

CNC Machinist Program, Stanly Community College, Albemarle: *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Innovative Partnership.*

[Read more.](#)

## Fidelity Investments Celebrates Official Opening of N. C. Campus

Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest providers of financial services and among the largest employers in Research Triangle Park, on Oct. 17 celebrated the official opening of its North Carolina campus located in RTP. The

The project was made possible in part by an award to RC Creations from the state's [Job Development Investment Grant](#) program, as voted by the Economic Investment Committee. Receipt of the award is based on proof of job creation and other performance requirements. JDIGs are awarded only to new and expanding businesses and industrial projects whose benefits exceed the costs to the state, and which would not be undertaken in North Carolina without the grant.

Under the terms of the company's JDIG award, RC Creations is eligible to receive up to 12 annual grants equal to 62 percent of the state personal income tax withholdings from the eligible new jobs created since the date of the initial award. Receipt of each annual grant is based on state-certified proof that the company has fulfilled incremental job creation requirements. Over ten years, the JDIG award could yield aggregate benefits to RC Creations of up to \$975,000.

In addition, up to \$325,000 in funds from the company's JDIG award could be added to the state's Utility Fund for infrastructure improvements in economically distressed counties. When a JDIG is awarded to a company whose site is located in the state's more economically prosperous counties, 25 percent of the company's grant is allocated to the Utility Fund to encourage economic development in less prosperous counties. [Learn more about the county tier designations.](#)

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: N.C. Community Colleges, N.C. Department of Transportation, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, N.C. State Ports Authority, Duke Energy, Golden LEAF Foundation, Pender County, Wilmington Business Development, UNC-Wilmington, PSNC Energy and AT&T. [Read more.](#)



*(Left-right) Halifax County Convention and Visitor's Bureau President Lori Medlin, Halifax County Economic Development Commission Executive Director Cathy Scott, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, and State Senator Angela Bryant*

## Decker Visits Halifax and Warren Counties

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker traveled to Halifax and Warren Counties on Oct. 9 to meet with local economic developers, community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders. In Halifax County, Decker took a windshield tour of some of the county's new industrial parks, certified sites and tourism attractions, and learned that the county is the "Rockfish Capital of the World." She heard from Halifax County Economic Development Commission Executive Director Cathy Scott and Halifax County Convention and Visitor's Bureau President Lori Medlin about the county's investment in

ceremony was attended by Governor Pat McCrory, Durham Mayor Bill Bell, representatives from local business and nonprofit agencies, and Fidelity executives and associates.

"We congratulate Fidelity Investments on the opening of their new facility in Research Triangle Park and know this location will strengthen their presence in our state," McCrory said. "It's great to see companies come to North Carolina and expand. It's even better to see Fidelity being a leader in their community through volunteerism and partnering with local schools. This kind of teamwork and community investment makes Fidelity a welcome and valuable asset to our state."

Guests toured the campus at New Millennium Way, which was redesigned to create a flexible, collaborative and environmentally friendly space conducive to the way people work today.

New features and amenities on the campus include:

- Desks configured in teams rather than cubicles
- LEED environmental building certification
- A cafeteria, fitness center & health/wellness center
- GuruBarSM - an on-site, hands-on technical support center for employees' technology needs
- GoWork Center - a new type of workspace designed to support employee mobility in convenient locations

"Fidelity's sizeable investment in our Research Triangle Park campus reflects our commitment to North Carolina and the important role the state plays in allowing us to help our customers achieve their financial goals," said Fidelity Asset Management President Ronald O'Hanley. "Our ability to deliver exceptional value for our customers depends on a talented and motivated work force, which is why we are so pleased with the quality of the people who have joined our team here. This recruitment includes both new employees and existing Fidelity associates who have moved to North Carolina."

The majority of Fidelity's more than 3,200 North Carolina associates work in technology and customer service and operations roles. Positions range from retirement and payroll customer service support to highly skilled technologists. In addition to the main campus located in RTP, Fidelity associates are located at Weston Parkway in Cary and at four Fidelity Investor Centers in Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro and Raleigh.

First establishing its presence in North Carolina 11 years ago with the acquisition of

infrastructure and focus on the area's unique assets.

"You are very well-positioned and have a competitive edge over many counties," Decker told the community representatives at a luncheon. "You have forged a strong partnership among all the various economic development entities and everyone is working together with a common vision. That's rare."

Later that afternoon, Decker spoke to a group of economic development, business and non-profit leaders from Warren and Vance counties. State Senator Angela Bryant and N.C. Rep. Nathan Baskerville facilitated the meeting where Decker talked about her interest in bringing more focus and resources to rural North Carolina. She responded to questions from audience members who were interested in a variety of topics, many of them centered on reducing regulations and simplifying economic development processes at the state level.



(Left-right) Gaston College Textile Technology Center Director Sam Buff with N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker as they tour the Center

## Decker Visits Gaston County

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker returned home to Gaston County on Oct. 4 to speak before the Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneurship Summit. She talked about the importance of small businesses in North Carolina and a desire to do more to encourage entrepreneurs to bring products to the marketplace. As part of her visit, Decker met with area textile executives from Parkdale Mills and American & Efid, as well as Dr. Joe Keith and Sam Buff from the Gaston College Kimbrell Campus & Textile Technology Center.

Since its inception in 1941, the Center has played a significant role in helping North Carolina's textile industry remain competitive, manufacture quality products and maintain a well-trained workforce. Decker toured the Textile Technology Center and enjoyed an up-close look at the capabilities of the Center and the important work it performs for textile companies. Many companies use the Center as their R&D and testing facility.

"After my discussions with Dan Nations of Parkdale and Ron Ensley of American & Efid, I'm optimistic that more textile jobs will be returning from China and other countries," stated Decker. "It's assets like the Textile Technology Center that will allow Gaston County and North Carolina to attract these jobs

an IBM business group of 450 employees, Fidelity has grown to more than 3,200 associates today.

Fidelity's decision to grow in North Carolina was based on several factors, including access to skilled labor, the state's business-friendly environment, collaborative business community and rich quality of life. [Read more.](#)

[Fidelity's updated RTP campus bolsters recruitment strategy](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Oct. 17)

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## ATI Industrial Automation Breaks Ground On Expansion, Creating 200 New Jobs

ATI Industrial Automation celebrated the ground breaking for an operations expansion at its corporate and manufacturing headquarters in Apex on Oct. 18. In addition to creating up to 200 new jobs, the expansion will more than double the robotics tool manufacturer's current operations to 129,000 square feet. High demand for ATI's robotic end-effector products continues to fuel the company's growth. The expansion will occur in two phases with the first phase of construction to start immediately and the second phase in three to five years.

"Global pressure for ever-increasing manufacturing productivity continues to drive demand for our products. This expansion will carry us well into the future, enabling us to further reduce lead times while providing a superior level of quality," said ATI Chairman Keith Morris.

ATI was formed in 1989 out of a small office in Garner, by engineers Morris, CEO Robert Little and Chief Sensor Technologist Dwayne Perry. Since then, the employee-owned firm has grown from a handful of employees to more than 200, with corporate and manufacturing headquarters in Apex and additional locations in Michigan, China and Brazil. Since 1998, ATI has increased revenue tenfold to become a market leader in robotics products. The driving force behind its success is an expansive mechanical, electrical and software engineering team with a skilled support and manufacturing staff. The local economy will benefit from the company's makeup as the creation of quality technology and manufacturing jobs continues with the firm's growth.

Recognized throughout the world for quality and reliability, ATI products improve productivity in an array of industries, including robotics, aerospace, biomedical, automotive, electronics, applied research, academics, nuclear, and governmental. Little credits the company's strong growth to the diversity of customer applications that ATI serves.

and grow textile manufacturing in the state."



## BTEC Named Top Training Facility

The Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center at N.C. State University has been named one of the top 20 workforce development providers by TrainingIndustry.com. TrainingIndustry.com continuously reviews companies and colleges that provide customized corporate training services and conducts an annual assessment to determine suppliers' experience and capabilities. Selection to this year's 'Top Workforce Development Providers' list was based on the following criteria:

- Industry visibility, innovation and impact
- Capability to develop and deliver customized corporate training services
- Company size and growth potential
- Depth and breadth of subject matter expertise
- Organization size and growth potential
- Quality of clients
- Geographic reach

"This is a great recognition of the work being done by BTEC staff and faculty," stated BTEC Director Ruben Carbonell.



## Commerce to Participate in Conference to Attract Foreign Direct Investment

Officials with the N.C. Department of Commerce will be in Washington, D.C. next week to engage with executives from foreign-owned companies at the inaugural SelectUSA Investment Summit, to be held October 31-November 1.

The SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit, organized by a unit at the U.S. Department of Commerce, is designed to connect investors - both foreign and domestic - with U.S. economic development organizations, and to strengthen global investor awareness of SelectUSA, the federal unit aimed at attracting foreign companies to the United States. The goal of the Summit - like that of SelectUSA - is to connect U.S. economic development organizations with foreign and domestic firms in support of business investment in the United States.

The Investment Summit will be a two-day event bringing together top-level corporate executives and investors from the U.S. and around the world, economic development organizations and representatives from across the country, senior White House and Administration officials, subject matter experts and service providers.

Global firms are a critical element in North Carolina's

"This diversity in our customer base, coupled with our focus on innovation and customer service has allowed us to succeed in a sluggish global economy despite lower-cost competition from overseas," stated Little. "Over 40 percent of our sales are exported to world markets. We expect that to increase. We've created 50 new jobs since our 2011 expansion, and this new expansion will create an additional 200 jobs." [Read more.](#)

[Robotic tools manufacturer expanding, adding 200 jobs in Apex](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Oct. 14)



*Tribal officials and business leaders prepare to break ground on the new Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel in Murphy (photo courtesy Mike Hoyt)*

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Breaks Ground on New Casino near Murphy

A \$110 million project to build a new casino in Cherokee County is officially underway. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Oct. 15 at the future site of the facility just outside of Murphy. The casino will be owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and will be managed by Caesars Entertainment Corporation; the two already work together with Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee. The Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino & Hotel will feature 60,000 square feet of gaming space with slots and traditional table games, a 300-room full service hotel, and a variety of dining options. The casino will create an estimated 900 jobs on-site and inject up to \$39 million in wages into the surrounding area.

[Tribe breaks ground on Cherokee County casino](#) (*Cherokee One Feather*, Oct. 15)

## 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

economy, driving the state to rank 10th in America for employment supported by foreign direct investment (FDI). If only manufacturing employment supported by FDI is considered, North Carolina ranks 7th in the United States. Companies hailing from more than 30 countries around the globe have operations in North Carolina.

## Wake County Considered 'Soccer Capital'

Sports are indisputably big business; the NFL alone generates a combined \$9 billion in annual revenue. That youth sports are also big business, however, might be a little more surprising. Take, for example, Capital Area Soccer League, more commonly known by its acronym CASL, pronounced "castle." This year the Raleigh-based league has budgeted revenue of \$7 million and will see roughly 9,000 soccer players come through its system of 550 teams. The club's reach is not limited to the thousands of participating players and families, but to the Wake County economy as a whole.

Every year, it hosts four major youth tournaments in November. This year, the tournaments will draw between 17,000 and 18,000 players which translates to an economic impact of \$9 million to Wake County, according to Scott Dupree with the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance, which partners with CASL in the tournaments that carry the official title of "CASL visitRaleigh.com National Soccer Series." That \$9 million figure is only the estimated direct-visitor spending, and doesn't factor in an economic multiplier that some economists use to demonstrate indirect impact. This year the tournaments will bring close to 1,200 teams that will occupy between 25,000 and 30,000 hotel room-nights - "which for this market is massive," Dupree says.

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 - October 21, 2013

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	305
<b>Projects announced:</b>	108
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	14,294
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$1.8B
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	912
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	16,189

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Slideshow: Honda opens \\$20M customer service facility for jet at PTI](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 17)
- [Bayer CropScience CEO: RTP renovations equal triple-digit jobs](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Oct. 17)
- [Hundreds gather for FEDCON Summit in Wilmington](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, Oct. 17)
- [U.S. solar energy development on record pace as N.C. continues to shine](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 16)
- [Jobs at center stage as Wake Tech celebrates 50th anniversary](#) (*News & Observer - Raleigh*, Oct. 16)
- [Maidenform job cuts will lead to gain of 130 jobs in Forsyth](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 16)
- [Telerx to add 160 jobs at Kings Mountain center](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Oct. 16)
- [Greensboro Partnership names new leadership positions](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 16)
- [Grant to aid gas line extension to industrial park](#) (*Mt. Airy News*, Oct. 15)
- [John Lassiter: Rural NC to be a focus of revamped state Department of Commerce](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Oct. 15)
- [Vaccine company chooses Guilford for \\$7.6M facility, 31 jobs](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 15)
- [Guilford prison farm site touted as ideal for data center](#) (*News & Record - Greensboro*, Oct. 15)
- [Honda hiring 'in all areas' to prepare for jet production, delivery](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 15)
- [Affinia Group to move headquarters to](#)

[Gastonia after hiring local CFO](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Oct. 15)

- [N.C. Commerce head interviewing applicants for private-side CEO](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Oct. 14)
- [CPCC receives grant to train low-income individuals](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Oct. 14)
- [New client creates jobs at FirstPoint call center in Greensboro](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Oct. 14)
- [Company to invest \\$3M in new manufacturing facility](#) (Statesville Record & Landmark, Oct. 11)

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