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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, Siemens Global Fossil Generation CEO Michael Suess, Siemens Energy U.S. CEO Randy Zwirn, and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll at the groundbreaking.

Siemens holds Charlotte groundbreaking

On Oct. 20, Siemens held a groundbreaking in Charlotte for their planned 825 employee facility to manufacture natural gas-fired turbines. Gov. Bev Perdue was recognized by Siemens Global Fossil Generation CEO Michael Suess for her decisive leadership during the recruitment of the project. Siemens Energy U.S. CEO Randy Zwirn and General Manager Mark Pringle were also recognized by Suess for their advocacy on behalf of the current workforce at the Charlotte facility and the competitive business climate in the community and North Carolina.

[Read the blog post](#) at the governor's e-Town Hall recognizing the teamwork on the recruitment of the Siemens project.

Perdue leads N.C. delegation to SEUS/Japan Conference

Gov. Bev Perdue led a delegation last week to Nashville, Tenn., for the 34th Southeast U.S./Japan conference. This annual joint meeting, held since 1976 between several southeastern states and Japan brings together senior leaders from both countries to discuss investment, trade, and mutually beneficial partnerships. More than 500 delegates attended this year's conference in Music City. In 2011, the conference returns to Japan and will convene in downtown Tokyo at the Imperial Hotel, October 16-18.



(Left-right) N.C. Rep. Dale Folwell and N.C. Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler at the GREEN N.C. Exhibit at the N.C. State Fair.

Ag Commissioner visits Green N.C. exhibit at the State Fair

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce Energy Office and the N.C. Solar Center shared space in the Green N.C. Exhibit at the 2010 N.C. State Fair for the third consecutive year. Not only was there record-breaking attendance at the fair, but the attendance in the Green N.C. Exhibit also set a record. Both groups distributed information on sustainable energy, the state's Weatherization Assistance Program and the green energy economy. Twenty-six staffers from the Energy Office, along with volunteers from the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Communications Office and the Green Business Fund, helped staff the booth during the 11 days of the fair.



Public and private-sector partners joined Commerce this month to bring a North Carolina exhibit to the SPI 2010 trade show. Pictured here: Shannon Helm, N.C. Solar Center; Nicole Wood, LORD Corporation and Erika Velazquez,

\$3.3M in recovery funds to help convert landfill gas into energy

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce Energy Office on Oct. 25 announced the distribution of \$3.3 million in federal Recovery Act funds to six counties for the development of projects to convert methane gases from landfills into fuel to produce electricity. Money for the program is from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Grant funds will be used to support design, planning, permitting, equipment purchases, contracting, installation, and other items directly necessary for the successful installation and operation of landfill energy systems, including landfill gas collection, gas conditioning, or end-use equipment such as boilers, generators, or turbines. [Read more.](#)

NASA helps N.C. aerospace industry thrive

The North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center (SMT Center) recently received a \$400,000 grant from NASA to establish a two-year aerospace education program. Approximately 20 North Carolina teachers will gain firsthand aerospace research experience through the program. [Read more.](#)

The Economist profiles N.C. biotech

An article in the Oct. 21 issue of *The Economist* traces the transition of Winston-Salem's economy from tobacco-based to biotech-based. The article describes how scientists at the Piedmont Triad Research Park, which is located on property formerly owned by tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds, are finding new uses for the tobacco plant. The article mentions the work of companies in Durham, and also notes the N.C. Biotechnology Center's plan to increase North Carolina's agriculture sector by \$30 billion over the next decade. Learn more about N.C.'s [biotech industry](#).

[After tobacco](#) (The Economist, Oct. 21)

Recovery Act funds promote green jobs and energy efficiency

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce Energy Office on Oct. 22 announced that an additional \$4.5 million in federal Recovery Act funding for energy efficiency grants has been awarded to 34 local governments, community colleges and local school districts to help save on fuel and utility bills and create jobs. The 17 grants are the second round distribution of money to local agencies in North Carolina. More than \$16.4 million has been distributed to 138 local governments, public school systems and community colleges. [Read more.](#)

Davis to speak at EU marketplace seminar

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Director of International Trade Jean Davis will speak at the Doing Business in the EU Marketplace seminar at Wake Technical Community College in Cary on Oct. 29. The seminar will provide a forum for participants to better understand doing business and establishing

ABB, Inc.

Commerce leads exhibit effort at solar conference

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Energy and Marketing divisions recently partnered with the N.C. Solar Center to mount a North Carolina exhibit at the Solar Power International conference and expo, the largest business to business solar energy show in North America. An estimated 27,000 business executives and managers attended the three day conference in Los Angeles, which focuses on solar technology, policy, and finance and included displays from major manufacturers in the industry. A diverse group of public and private sector partners, including LORD Corporation, ABB, Inc., Nature's Energy Solutions, Electricities and Progress Energy, joined the state booth.

Blue Ridge Food Ventures opens manufacturing facility

Blue Ridge Food Ventures, a partner organization of AdvantageWest, opened its new natural products manufacturing facility Oct. 18 in Asheville. It is believed to be the first shared-use facility of its kind in the United States for entrepreneurs to produce, bottle, seal and label natural products, including medicinal herbs and dietary supplements, in the form of tinctures, extracts and creams. It will accommodate early-stage small businesses and established companies in the natural products sector. The initiative taps Western North Carolina's rich biodiversity and agricultural traditions of harvesting and growing herbs and medicinal plants. AdvantageWest and other project partners believe it will help establish WNC as a leader in the natural products industry nationally. N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Small Business Commissioner Scott Daugherty was among the representatives from various statewide organizations on hand for the facility's opening. [Learn more.](#)



Workforce Development hosts Greensboro conference

The 2010 N.C. Workforce Development Conference - titled "Reflect. Refocus. Recover." - was held Oct 13-15 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. The

relationships within European Union companies. International Trade and development experts will present how to engage the old, new and non-parts of the European Union. Other presenters include U.S. Dept. of Commerce Commercial Service International Trade Specialist Shareef Loza and Global Consulting & Affiliates President Russ Froneberger. To learn more, contact Wake Technical Community College Small Business Center Director Ken Dillo at kldillo@waketech.edu or (919) 335-1009.

N.C. Unemployment rate dips slightly

North Carolina's unemployment dipped slightly in September, the seventh straight month the rate has declined. The state's jobless rate, released Oct. 22 by the N.C. Employment Security Commission, was 9.6 percent in August, down from 9.7 percent in August.

September marks the first month since March 2008 that the state's unemployment rate has not been higher than the national rate, which is also 9.6 percent.

[State unemployment rate dips slightly: now even with national rate](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Oct. 22)

NuTech holds AgBiotech Industry Roundtable

NuTech, a technology partnership of Nagoya University in Japan, held an AgBiotech Industry Roundtable Oct. 22 at the N.C. Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park.

The event featured technology presentations, and discussions of R&D investment and collaboration strategies with representatives from such companies as Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta and BASF. Approximately 145 people attended the event.

Nagoya University is one of seven prestigious "imperial" universities in Japan. NuTech promotes tech transfer and research collaboration between U.S. partners and Nagoya University, mainly focusing on life sciences and biotech in Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. [Learn more](#). Learn more about the [biotech sector](#) in North Carolina.

Depts. of Commerce and Revenue partner for business outreach

The N.C. Depts. of Commerce and Revenue have joined forces to increase support for small businesses across the state. The partnership will assist business owners in an effort that could potentially save jobs and keep businesses from closing their doors.

"As the biggest driver for new job creation in North Carolina, small and mid-sized businesses are critical to our economic recovery, and these business owners need to know that we are doing everything we can to help them succeed," said Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco.

Business Link North Carolina partners with a network of statewide, state-funded resource providers offering services to North Carolina businesses. Business owners can contact BLNC at (800) 228-8443 or www.blnc.gov to receive expert advice and referrals on a wide array of topics such as how to start a business, state permitting and licensing, and improving

conference was attended by 894 workforce professionals, representing state, local, and federal agencies; community-based organizations; Workforce Development Boards; and the N.C. Commission on Workforce Development. Highlights of the conference were keynote addresses by: Dr. Nido Qubein, president of High Point University; Dr. Susanne Gaddis, "The Communications Doctor," Chapel Hill; and Jane Oates, assistant sec. of the U.S. Dept. of Labor/Employment & Training Administration. U.S. Rep. Mel Watt was also a guest. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, N.C. Commission on Workforce Development Chairman Chris Rolfe, and Division of Workforce Development Director Roger Shackelford, participated in the annual Governor's Awards Banquet.

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 - Oct. 25, 2010

New projects assigned:	352
Projects announced:	107
Jobs created:	13,143
Capital invested:	\$2.77B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,139
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	19,021

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Spreading Its Hot Wings - East Coast Wings is planning to add 14 new restaurants to its existing 16](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, Oct. 22)
- [Triangle ad agencies bustle, beef up staffs](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Oct. 22)
- [New call center's job fair coming next week](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, Oct. 22)
- [Tanger has several events set for opening of Mebane outlets](#) (The Burlington Times-News, Oct. 21)
- [Energy firm will create 178 jobs](#) (The

cash management and seeking business financing. [Learn more.](#)

Charlotte Observer, Oct. 20)

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