

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gildan Activewear to Create More Than 500 New Jobs in Bladen, Davie, and Rowan Counties

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today that Gildan Yarns, LLC, a subsidiary of Gildan Activewear Inc., will expand its existing yarn spinning manufacturing facilities in Bladen and Rowan counties and establish a new yarn spinning facility in Davie County. [David Spratley](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The company confirmed today that it will invest in excess of \$250 million to build a yarn spinning facility behind its Salisbury location, which is currently under construction, and another one in Mocksville, as well as to expand and renovate its Clarkton location. With these projects, Gildan expects to create more than 500 new jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2016.

"Apparel manufacturers like Gildan are further investing in North American operations and North Carolina is just the place for their company to succeed with that," said Governor McCrory. "The additional skilled manufacturing jobs that they'll create will strengthen the economy of these counties and demonstrates the strong talent pool and attractive quality of life that characterizes this region of the state."

"Gildan is a strong national brand and we're proud of the footprint they have throughout North Carolina," said Secretary Decker. "We appreciate the Gildan management team for



Governor McCrory speaking at Greenheck's announcement Oct. 4

Fan Manufacturer Expansion Brings 184 Jobs to Cleveland County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 4 that [Greenheck Fan Corporation](#), a leading manufacturer of air movement and control equipment, will expand its operations in Cleveland County. The company plans to create 184 new jobs and invest \$30 million over the next five years in Shelby. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Uconda Dunn](#) was the developer on this project.

Greenheck Fan Corporation is a broad spectrum manufacturer of commercial and industrial air movement and control equipment headquartered in Schofield, Wis. The company is often involved in ventilation projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency. Greenheck brand fans and ventilators, centrifugal and vane axial fans, dampers, louvers, laboratory exhaust systems, energy recovery products, indoor air handling units and coils are shipped to customers around the globe. The company will be establishing a new manufacturing operation adjacent to an existing Kings Mountain facility. Greenheck currently employs 116 people in North Carolina.

"A thorough and exhaustive site search was conducted that considered many states and counties. We concluded the best location for the new CVI [centrifugal, vane axial, and industrial fan] plant was Shelby, North Carolina, just 15 miles from our two current facilities in Kings Mountain, North Carolina," said Greenheck Sr. Vice-President of Human Resources Jon Krueger.

renewing their commitment to North Carolina and know they'll find the quality workforce they need to succeed."

"Our investments in our yarn spinning operations will support our projected sales growth and further reinforce our position as a global low-cost manufacturer," stated Gildan Yarns President Chuck Ward. "The state-of-the-art product technology to be used in these facilities will continue to differentiate the product quality of Gildan branded products. The State of North Carolina provides us with a qualified textile workforce, competitive energy rates and a good transportation network, which are all central to our expansion projects."

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker presenting Governor McCrory's proclamation of Oct. 4 as Manufacturing Day at N.C. State University's Centennial Campus

Governor McCrory Proclaims Oct. 4 Manufacturing Day

Governor Pat McCrory [proclaimed Oct. 4 "Manufacturing Day" in North Carolina](#). In demonstration of support of manufacturing in North Carolina and to support [National Manufacturing Day](#), McCrory and members of his cabinet traveled throughout the state to highlight the state's efforts to develop a skilled workforce for the manufacturing industry.

The tour also included several job announcements, bringing more than 370 new jobs and more than \$100 million in investment to North Carolina.

"North Carolina has always been a state where our workforce made things and we're proud of our manufacturing heritage," said McCrory. "It's the state's past, and it's also the state's future. The fastest way to grow our economy is to focus on advanced manufacturing and what we know best."

McCrory, along with N.C. Community College System President Dr. Scott Ralls, began the day at Cape Fear Community College where students are being trained for highly technical positions needed at nearby companies like GE Hitachi.

"Our community colleges were created to grow manufacturing in North Carolina," said Ralls. "Fifty years later, we continue to play a vital role in training the manufacturing workforce. The governor's recognition today further demonstrates the importance of community colleges in attracting and retaining

The project was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#). The grant, which is based on the creation of 102 jobs over three years, is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Cleveland County, City of Shelby, Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership and Gardner-Webb University. [Read more.](#)

Ceramics Manufacturer to Expand in Iredell County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 4 that [NGK Ceramics USA](#) will expand its operations in Iredell County. The company plans to create 18 new jobs and invest more than \$22 million in Mooresville.

NGK Ceramics USA Inc. is a subsidiary of NGK Insulators, Ltd. of Nagoya, Japan. NGK Ceramics USA manufactures automotive ceramic substrates used globally in gasoline and diesel catalytic converters and directly supports and supplies all major automobile manufacturers, and heavy-duty diesel manufacturers, with high-performance components for emission control systems. The company currently employs more than 600 people at its Mooresville facility.

This newest addition comes on the heels of the company's \$93 million expansion announced in 2011, which is currently in the final stages of completion. Over the past 10 years, NGK's total investment in its Mooresville site has exceeded \$200 million. NGK's employee base has grown from 278 to 613 workers during this period.

"Our latest expansion enlarges the footprint of our powder preparation facility, and is scheduled to occur over the course of the next year," said NGK Ceramics USA Senior Vice President Steve Dailey. "Increasing our capacity in Mooresville allows our team to efficiently increase the volume of materials we export to our NGK plants in Indonesia, Mexico, Poland and China."

NGK Ceramics USA is celebrating 25 years of manufacturing world-class products in Mooresville. The company credits a manufacturing-friendly local economic climate, rising global demand for NGK's Honeyceram ceramics products in the automotive industry,

business and industry, and growing jobs in our state."

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker was at N.C. State University with Chancellor Randy Woodson on Oct. 4 to kick off Manufacturing Day and the observance at the university. N.C. State's Industrial Extension Service, in partnership with the National Association of Manufacturers, organized numerous activities on campus and throughout the state.

"Our investment in education and job training programs is directly related to our ability to produce a highly skilled workforce," said Decker. "It's events like today's that will encourage more youngsters to consider working in advanced manufacturing. The manufacturing industry includes so many diverse and unique career opportunities and we want to share that information with students of all ages."

The Governor's Senior Advisor on Jobs and the Economy Tony Almeida toured the Meritor facility in Fletcher. Meritor is a global manufacturer of advanced automotive systems. The event, which included nearly 80 middle school students, allowed the visitors to get an up close look at careers in advanced manufacturing.

North Carolina is the fourth-largest manufacturing state with more than 440,000 employees working in that sector. In 2012, the average annual manufacturing wage in North Carolina was \$53,337, which is \$11,000 more than the state average. [Read more.](#)



Governor McCrory speaking at the Custom Nonwoven announcement on Oct. 4 at Davidson County Community College

Nonwoven Manufacturer to Create 72 New Jobs in Davidson County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 4 that Custom Nonwoven Inc., a global producer of polyester staple fiber, will locate a new manufacturing facility in Davidson County. The company plans to create 72 jobs and invest more than \$12.8 million over the next three years in Thomasville. [April Kappler](#) of the N.C. Department of Commerce and Leland Gaskins of the State of North Carolina Japan Office were the developers on this project.

Custom Nonwoven is a Korean-owned company that develops and manufactures polyester nonwoven pads and rolls through a thermal bonding process. The company is bringing a new production line to Thomasville, which will manufacture fire

and access to a motivated and skilled workforce as factors that have added to the success of NGK and bolstered the local economy over the past 25 years. Since its first substrate was sold, local workers have produced more than 243 million substrates that are used in vehicles around the world. Ceramic substrates are honeycomb-like structures that are used as components in catalytic converters.

NGK Ceramics USA President Tomokazu Asai stated, "The continued investment by NGK in our Mooresville facility is a testament to the confidence that our Japan-based senior leadership team has in our local employees, the Town of Mooresville, Iredell County and the State of North Carolina."

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Iredell County, Town of Mooresville and the Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corporation. [Read more.](#)

Jacob Holm Industries to Expand in Buncombe County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 4 that Jacob Holm Industries, a global nonwoven manufacturing company, will expand its operations in Buncombe County. The company plans to create 66 new jobs with a minimum qualifying investment of more than \$45.9 million. The total capital investment is likely to exceed \$60 million when the final project is complete. This growth will take place over the next three years in Candler. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bill Payne](#) served as the developer on this project.

Jacob Holm Industries was founded in 1794, and today has its global headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. Its U.S. subsidiary, Jacob Holm Industries (America) Inc., has its operations headquartered in Candler. JHI is one of the world's leading nonwoven corporations that offer high-quality products for personal care, home care, hygiene, packaging, and industrial markets. The company currently employs 82 workers in Candler, manufacturing premium spunlaced nonwoven products.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$46,258 plus benefits. The Buncombe County average annual wage is \$35,565.

"Jacob Holm Industries is pleased to announce this new technology investment at our existing operation in Candler," said Jacob Holm President Steve Landon. "Since opening our doors in Western North Carolina back in 2005, the company has been impressed with the local community, the availability of a quality workforce and the willingness of state and local officials to

retardant barrier and fire retardant mattress pads for use in cushion seatings for medical, military and institutional applications. This facility will be the company's first in North Carolina.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$45,875 plus benefits. The Davidson County average annual wage is \$32,339.

"We are really excited to be a member of the furniture capital of the world, partnered with the City of Thomasville and Davidson County," said Custom Nonwoven Owner JM Kim. "We will do our best to make a positive impact on the local area by creating more jobs and growing together."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$128,000. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Davidson County, City of Thomasville, and the Davidson County Economic Development Commission. [Read more.](#)

[Korean manufacturer to open Thomasville plant, create 72 jobs](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 4)



(Left-right) N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker with Flo-Tite Valves President Martin Gibbons at the companies' announcement in Lumberton on Oct. 4

Valve and Piping Manufacturers to Expand in Robeson County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Oct. 4 that [Flo-Tite Valve Controls](#) and sister company [Titan Flow Control](#) will be expanding their manufacturing operations in Lumberton in Robeson County. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) served as the developer on this project.

Flo-Tite plans to create as many as 25 new jobs and invest more than \$1.5 million. Titan Flow Control plans to create up to 15 new jobs and invest more than \$2 million.

Flo-Tite Valves is a manufacturer of high-quality ball valves and valve automation equipment with more than 30 years of design and manufacturing experience. The company provides products for water, sea water, chemical, utilities, pulp and

support our goal of becoming the premier nonwoven manufacturer in North America. This new production line is planned to start commercial production in Q1, 2015. "

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$100,000. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match, which will be approved in a public hearing in Candler.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Buncombe County and the Economic Development Coalition of Asheville-Buncombe County. [Read more.](#)

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 - Oct. 7, 2013

New projects assigned:	287
Projects announced:	99
Jobs announced:	13,298
Capital investment announced:	\$1.4B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	899
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	15,524

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Montgomery County to join Southeast Partnership](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 4)
- [Areva opens new U.S. headquarters in Charlotte](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Oct. 3)
- [Rowan-Cabarrus gets grant from Back-to-Work program](#) (*Salisbury Post*, Oct. 3)
- [Lawmakers get update on far-reaching new economic development plans](#) (*The News & Observer - Raleigh*, Oct. 3)

paper, hydropower, petroleum, power generation, food and beverage, and space industry needs.

Titan Flow Control was established in 2000 by a group of industry veterans. The company manufactures a wide variety of industrial and commercial piping products including check valves, pipeline strainers, butterfly valves, pump protection products, and additional pipeline accessories. Titan's capabilities extend to complex fabricated products, custom design units and specialty screens for commercial HVAC.

Flo-Tite and Titan Valve have both experienced significant growth in their business in the past year. The companies moved into a new 128,000-square-foot headquarters, warehouse and automation center in early 2013. The new facility in Lumberton has allowed the companies to increase inventory and machining capabilities, as well as hire new employees.

"Flo-Tite and Titan are both very pleased to have the opportunity to be able to take advantage of our sales growth and share this success with our community," said Flo-Tite Valves President Martin Gibbons. "The decision to make the investment to expand and modernize our facilities and add jobs was made easier based on promised assistance from state, county and city government agencies."

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Robeson County, City of Lumberton and the Robeson County Economic Development Corporation. [Read more.](#)

[N.C. Commerce Department says transition going well](#) (News 14 Carolina, Oct. 3)

- [Tom Clancy leaves lasting legacy for Triangle gaming industry](#) (WRAL Tech Wire, Oct. 3)
- [Preservation Greensboro plans economic development series](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 3)
- [Displaced by Hurricane Sandy, N.Y. analytics firm opens Raleigh office](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Oct. 2)
- [New CEO of Wilmington Downtown aims to attract entrepreneurs](#) (*StarNews - Wilmington*, Oct. 2)
- [Sierra Nevada begins test brewing at Mills River](#) (*Citizen-Times - Asheville*, Oct. 2)
- [Pharmaceutical startup promises 200 Charlotte jobs](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Oct. 2)
- [Business opening early, keeping promise on jobs](#) (*Gaston Gazette*, Oct. 1)
- [Harrisburg leaders work to attract businesses, families](#) (WSOCTV.com, Oct. 1)
- [N.C. commerce head: Private investors will determine fate of regional partnerships](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 1)
- [Lights, camera ... business](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Oct. 1)
- [Wake County economic development head to retire](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Oct. 1)
- [N.C. holds 'listening' session in Hickory about revamping economic development](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Sept. 30)
- [Entrepreneur Summit brings N.C. Secretary of Commerce to Belmont](#) (*Gaston Gazette*, Sept. 29)
- [Whirligig Park fuels economic revival](#) (*The Wilson Times*, Sept. 28)
- [RowanWorks touts economic development success stories](#) (*Salisbury Post*, Sept. 27)

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