

syncTM

Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue announces that "Iron Man 3" will film in Wilmington.

'Iron Man 3' to film in Wilmington

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 27 announced that the Marvel Studios film 'Iron Man 3,' starring Robert Downey Jr., will soon start pre-production in Wilmington. The motion picture is expected to be made in North Carolina over a 10 month period, including pre production, principal photography, and wrap, and have an estimated economic impact over \$80 million while creating 550 crew jobs and over 1,000 talent opportunities.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and this film production will mean high-quality, well-paying jobs for North Carolinians," Perdue said. "I pushed hard to get the revamped film incentive passed, with the help of a number of lawmakers, and now we see that initiative doing exactly what it was designed to do. 2011 has been North Carolina's busiest year in the film industry with productions having a direct spend of over \$200 million. "Iron Man 3" will add to this record breaking year and carry over into 2012."

State and local officials have been working with Marvel Studios for over six months on bringing the project to North Carolina. In addition to the state's 25 percent film incentive, the state's talented and trained film professionals as well as the established infrastructure - including the facility at EUE/Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington - all played key roles in landing the production. [Read more.](#)

[Incentives hike, new sound stage help land 'Iron Man 3'](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, Oct. 27)



EDIS is now AccessNC

Earlier today (Nov. 1), the N.C. Department of Commerce launched [AccessNC](#), the state's one-stop information portal for site selectors and economic developers. AccessNC, previously known as the Economic Development Intelligence System (EDIS), is the state's online resource for business decision makers offering access to the demographic, economic and property information they need when considering North Carolina business locations.

One of the most innovative elements of the AccessNC system is a new mobile app, a unique tool to access North Carolina building and site data from a wide variety of smart phones and mobile devices. The mobile app versions for Apple's iPhone and iPad platforms are available today on the [iTunes App Store](#). Android and Blackberry versions of the mobile app will be available in the near future.

With the re-launch of the state's building and sites database, local and regional stake holders are encouraged to re-check the accuracy of the building and site data they are responsible for entering into the system. The new mobile app, along with the marketing campaign to introduce it will bring increased visibility to the buildings and sites database. Data entry procedures remain unchanged

New award honors 9 communities for small business innovation

Governor Perdue on Nov. 1 honored nine North Carolina communities with the inaugural Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award for their creative and innovative ways to help small businesses bring jobs to North Carolina. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by small businesses, making them critical economic drivers for local communities across the state.

"Small businesses are the backbone of North Carolina's economy. Supporting our small business owners and entrepreneurs is the best way to improve the unemployment rate," said Perdue. "Part of being the best place to do business is providing support for the innovators, risk-takers and small business owners who create jobs."

The Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award program recognizes projects, strategies and initiatives that reflect excellence in community economic development, small business and entrepreneurship, and sustainability in North Carolina. Nominated communities were evaluated based on their creative solutions to improve quality of life and well-being through job creation and job sustaining activities.

The award recipients will be honored at a reception at the Executive Mansion on Nov. 14. [Read more.](#)



Governor Bev Perdue presents a North Carolina flag to Manuel Diez, CEO of CTL Packaging USA, as N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll looks on.

Perdue announces 131 jobs with CTL Packaging USA

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 26 announced that CTL Packaging USA, a global manufacturer of plastic packaging products for the cosmetic, personal care, food and pharmaceutical industries, will locate its North American operations in Gaston County. The company plans to create 131 jobs over the next four years and make a \$58.5 million capital investment in Gastonia. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ron Leitch](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority, both attracting new companies to invest in North Carolina and helping our existing businesses grow and thrive," Perdue said. "North Carolina is consistently ranked as having among the best business

from current practice. For information about the AccessNC transition, contact David Rhoades in the Commerce Marketing Division at drhoades@nccommerce.com or 919-715-6556.



Assistant Secretary for the Division of Employment Security Lynn Holmes

Commerce names Holmes as assistant secretary for new employment security division

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on Oct. 31 announced Lynn Holmes as the department's new assistant secretary for the division of employment security. The appointment takes effect on Nov. 1 when the N.C. Employment Security Commission merges with the N.C. Department of Commerce. Holmes was appointed as chairwoman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission on March 1, 2010, by Governor Bev Perdue.

"The combined agency will focus on two of Governor Perdue's top priorities: creating jobs and getting more out of every state dollar," Crisco said. "Lynn Holmes has the demonstrated leadership skills to make the merger of ESC into Commerce as effective and efficient as possible. We will focus on customer service, training our top notch workforce and transparency."

Holmes brings to the job more than 25 years of experience in corporate, legislative and governmental relations. Prior to her appointment, Holmes was the principal consultant for Ross Holmes Group, LLC, a Raleigh-based consulting practice focused on management, compliance, ethics, governmental relations, and policy. She also served as assistant vice-president for Ethics & Compliance at BellSouth Corporation (now

climates in America. CTL looked around the country and, like so many companies, was drawn to our history of critical investments in education, workforce training and a top-notch infrastructure network."

CTL Packaging USA is a subsidiary of CTL TH, a privately-held Spanish company with manufacturing facilities in Spain and France. The grant will allow the company to establish its North American operations in Gaston County. CTL TH Packaging has developed a revolutionary concept that allows deployment of manufacturing installations across the globe while ensuring product quality, decoration, service level and competitiveness. The company has been in operation for 42 years with manufacturing operations in Spain and France and currently ranks third among European tube companies selling over 500 million tubes per year and employing approximately 700 people world-wide. [Read more.](#)

[Plastics company coming to Gastonia Technology Park](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Oct. 31)

COIN to host nano/agriculture discussion

The Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology will host a discussion titled "Lessons from a Farmer for Pharma: Targeted Delivery Solutions" Nov. 17 at the Research Triangle Park Foundation. Representatives from Novozymes, Liquidia, NanoVector, Pharm Agra and Piedmont Pharmaceuticals are scheduled to participate. [Learn more.](#)

Kinston Chamber of Commerce celebrates centennial

City, county and Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce leaders gathered Monday to celebrate the Chamber's 100th birthday, but the concept of a chamber of commerce is one that stretches back centuries to the European Renaissance.

N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll was the guest speaker at the event. He read part of a letter of congratulations Governor Bev Perdue sent to Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber officials.

"Your efforts are strengthening communities and building a foundation of economic stability for years to come," Perdue wrote. "You are truly making a difference in Kinston/Lenoir County and beyond."

Kinston's Chamber of Commerce was incorporated on Oct. 31, 1911. C. Felix Harvey Sr. of L. Harvey & Sons was the first president, and he gathered with other prominent business elected leaders in the city, such as then-Mayor W.D. LaRoque, J.H. Canady, Dr. J.M. Parrott and others.

[Chamber of Commerce celebrates 100 years Monday](#) (*Kinston Free Press*, Nov. 1)

SBTDC client wins nearly \$50M government contract

Montgomery County business Carolina Growler has won an award of close to \$50 million to manufacture transportation equipment for the U.S. military. The company is a HubZone-certified, veteran-owned manufacturer of light truck and utility

AT&T), and as vice-president for Regulatory and External Affairs in Atlanta, Ga. [Read more.](#)

Food processor to create 75 jobs in Montgomery County

Governor Bev Perdue on Nov. 1 announced that Aseptia Inc., a processor of fruits and vegetables, will locate a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Montgomery County. The company, doing business as Wright Foods, plans to create 75 jobs and invest \$10.15 million during the next three years in Troy. The project was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Garrett Wyckoff](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority, Wright Food's choice to locate this facility in Montgomery County is a testament to our excellent workforce and strong business climate," said Perdue. "It's great news when innovative technology, developed right here in North Carolina, translates into jobs for our people and investments in our communities."

Aseptia was incorporated in North Carolina in 2006 and utilizes technology licensed at North Carolina State University to produce shelf stable food products that maintain flavor, color and nutrients of fresh foods without refrigeration. The Wright Foods' facility will primarily focus on producing shelf stable retail food products for other food companies. Whenever possible, the company will try to source fruits and vegetables from local sources. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, the N.C. Furniture Export Office's Jan Burge and N.C. Furnishings Export Council Chairman Charlie Greene

International Trade Division demos new Web section at High Point Furniture Market

On Oct. 25 the N.C. Department of Commerce International Trade Division presented a new [furniture-related section](#) of Commerce's website at the High Point Furniture Market.

vehicles, special mission and DOT-certified trailers, transportation equipment, and special aircraft support equipment. The contract will give Carolina Growler the golden opportunity to create up to 30 new jobs in Montgomery County over the next two years; continue completing 75% of work locally; and, most importantly, add capabilities to the current manufacturing facility.

In 2010 at a contracting event, John Crews, vice president for operations and son of Carolina Growler Terry Crews, met a [Small Business and Technology Development Center](#) PTAC counselor who helps small business owners prepare for government contracting opportunities. The counselor was able to answer tough questions John had during the event, which started Carolina Growler's relationship with the SBTDC. With much of their business coming from government contracting opportunities, the use of the SBTDC's expertise in government procurement, manufacturing and general business proved to be invaluable. [Read more.](#)

Cabinet company to create 136 jobs in Rutherford County

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 28 announced that Gourmet Group LLC will acquire the assets of Geppetto Kitchens and expand the manufacturing capacity of the plant. Gourmet Group will continue to produce the Geppetto brand of kitchen cabinets over the next five years. The project is expected to create 136 jobs and the company expects to invest over \$2.3 million in the project over the next three years. The project was made possible in part by a \$270,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bill Payne](#) was the developer on this project.

Gourmet Group will undertake aggressive but measured growth of the Geppetto brand through both geographic expansion and new product development. The company will manufacture its own doors and drawer boxes internally, reducing both costs and production lead times. The location in Rutherford County was selected because of the ample labor supply and excellent community college training resources. [Read more.](#)

[Cabinet company to create 136 jobs in Rutherford County](#)
(*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, Oct. 28)

Growth at forefront of regional aerospace summit

About 100 Eastern North Carolina industry-connected businesses and area business and community leaders pinned down some specifics to facilitate aerospace industry growth Oct. 25 at what U.S. Senator Kay Hagan termed "the inaugural North Carolina Aerospace Summit." Hagan co-hosted in Havelock with N.C.'s Eastern Region, a 13-county economic development cooperative.

N.C. Deputy Sec. of Commerce Dale Carroll said, "Aerospace is a major cluster for us now. There are now more than 180 aerospace and aviation original equipment manufacturers in North Carolina employing about 9,500 employees.

"There is momentum surrounding this industry with statewide impact."

Aerospace work in Eastern North Carolina is "significant," mostly related to Fleet Readiness Center East, which has the

Chairman Charlie Greene of the N.C. Furnishings Export Council and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll kicked off the meeting of the council with furniture trade experts and company executives from around the globe. CEO Thomas Conley of the High Point Furniture Market briefed the group on a successful 2011 market.



Governor Bev Perdue signs a declaration declaring Solar Homestead Week in North Carolina with the Appalachian State University Solar Decathlon team.

Perdue helps celebrate ASU solar homestead

Governor Bev Perdue made a stop in Boone Oct. 28 to recognize Appalachian State University students and faculty for their participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2011 international competition.

Perdue signed a proclamation declaring Oct. 28-Nov. 4 as Appalachian State University Solar Homestead Week. Perdue first met members of the Solar Homestead team during a visit this spring to Hardin Park School in Boone. She toured the Solar Homestead construction site during the summer and updated citizens about the project on her blog and in statewide emails. [Read more.](#) Learn about the [Solar Homestead project.](#)

[Governor celebrates App's win In Solar Decathlon](#) (GoBlueRidge.Net, Oct. 30)

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.

largest concentration of skilled workers and engineers in the state, Carroll said. It's active in "the Global TransPark, where the good news is increasing with Spirit AeroSystems" and its suppliers.

Dan Wheeler, vice president of Spirit AeroSystems North Carolina operations, said the Wichita, Kan.-based company appreciates the work ethic of farming community people.

[Growth at forefront of regional aerospace summit](#) (*The New Bern Sun-Journal*, Oct. 25)

Jan. 1 - Nov. 1, 2011

New projects assigned:	336
Projects announced:	137
Jobs announced:	12,790
Capital investment announced:	\$2.642B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,250
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	15,126

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Northeastern University is opening regional campus today](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Oct. 31)
- [Rembrandt: New fans of an old master](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Oct. 31)
- [Charting course for Blue Ridge Parkway's future](#) (*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, Oct. 30)
- [Hurricane Irene costs continue to climb](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, Oct. 30)

(919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

Building Location:
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Invite a Friend](#) [Unsubscribe](#) [Subscribe](#) feedback@nc-sync.com [SYNC archive](#)

© 2011 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.