

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

## 275 New Jobs Coming to Cabarrus County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, along with the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), announced recently that 275 new jobs will be coming to Cabarrus County. Gordon Food Service is planning to build a new distribution center in Cabarrus County, and will be investing approximately \$58 million over the next five years in Kannapolis.

"Gordon Food Service is a world leader in food service distribution," said Governor McCrory. "This fourth-generation family-managed business will feel at home in North Carolina and we look forward to seeing them grow in the future."

"We are excited to add the Kannapolis location to our distribution network," said Jim Gordon, CEO of Gordon Food Service. "The addition of this facility increases our capacity to serve national concepts, Group Purchasing Organizations and independent foodservice customers in the Southeast region of the United States."

Gordon Food Service is headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is North America's largest privately-held, family-managed broadline foodservice distributor. Founded in 1897, Gordon Food Service distributes to foodservice operators within the Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest regions of the United States and coast-to-coast in Canada. The company also operates more than 170 GFS Marketplace retail stores in the U.S. This will be the company's first presence in North Carolina.

The N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. partnered with N.C. Community Colleges, N.C. Department of Transportation, Golden LEAF Foundation, Duke Energy, Charlotte Regional Partnership, the City of Kannapolis, Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Cabarrus Economic Development Commission to make this project possible.

[Read more.](#)



## DuPont Expansion to Bring \$30 Million



## Linamar plans to create 150 new jobs and invest \$115 million in Buncombe County

Linamar North Carolina, Inc., is expanding operations in Buncombe County. The company plans to create 150 new jobs and invest \$115 million over the next several years in Arden, near Asheville.

"This is how we like to do business in North Carolina: grow with our existing industries," said Governor Pat McCrory. "Linamar fits into the automotive industry supply chain and that in turn fits right into our North Carolina jobs plan."

"We are very excited about our continued expansion in North Carolina," said company CEO Linda Hasenfratz. "Expanding our gear business globally is a key priority for us and we plan to create a state of the art facility here in Asheville to do just that."

Linamar Corporation is based in Guelph, Ontario and is a world-class designer and manufacturer of components and systems for the automotive and commercial vehicle industry, energy and mobile industrial markets. It is a leading supplier of engine transmission driveline products and mobile aerial work platforms. The Asheville precision machining facility produces components for commercial diesel engines and off highway vehicles and employs nearly 170 workers.

"This expansion will establish a gear manufacturing base in the Southeastern United States for Linamar North Carolina," said Secretary Sharon Decker. "These new jobs add to our number one ranking for the most manufacturing jobs in the Southeast."

Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Partnership of N.C., N.C. Community Colleges, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Duke Energy, Buncombe County, Asheville, and the Economic Development Coalition for

## Investment to Lenoir County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker recently announced that E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) is expanding its operations in Lenoir County. The company plans to create 18 new jobs and invest \$30 million over the next three years in Kinston.

"DuPont is one of North Carolina's best known employers," said Governor McCrory. "By adding these high-paying, quality jobs to their production facility in Kinston, the company is making a much-needed difference to the economy in this part of the state."

DuPont employs more than 750 workers in North Carolina. The company's Kinston site produces DuPont Sorona renewably sourced polymer. Sorona is made in part from annually renewable plant-based ingredients and is used primarily in fiber applications, including textiles used in apparel, home furnishings, and for carpets, including residential, commercial and automotive carpets and mats. Producing Sorona uses 30% less energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 63% compared to producing an equal amount of nylon 6, a widely used carpet material. The Kinston site is the largest polymer plant in the world that produces DuPont Sorona.

"Cities like Kinston in eastern North Carolina are continuing to see the benefits of employers recognizing what a great state we are to do business in," said Secretary Decker. "By adding these jobs in Lenoir County, DuPont is able to take advantage of North Carolina's incredible workforce and business-friendly attitude."

"Our expansion is due to the strong demand for our renewable Sorona polymer," said William Feehery, President of DuPont Industrial Biosciences. "We are pleased to be able to manufacture these innovative products in the state of North Carolina with a fantastic workforce and the support of forward-thinking leaders and the local community."

Other partners that helped with this project include: the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., N.C. Rural Economic Development, N.C. Department of Transportation, N.C. Community Colleges, Lenoir Community College, Duke Energy Progress, Lenoir County Economic Development and Lenoir County.

[Read more.](#)

## N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Approves Sixth Round of Grants

The N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved seven grants or loans totaling more than \$2.5 million on October 23rd. These projects reflect a commitment of nearly 650 new jobs.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/loans approved:

- **Sampson County:** \$566,925 to assist in the construction of an elevated water storage tank and 12-inch water line to a wood pellet production facility to be constructed by Enviva Pellets Sampson, LLC. Enviva has committed to create 80 full-time jobs.
- **Town of Spruce Pine (Mitchell County):** \$238,575 to provide public sewer and water service for the

Asheville-Buncombe County.

[Read more.](#)



## N.C. Leaps Forward in National Tax Ranking

The Tax Foundation, a tax policy research organization based in Washington, D.C. now ranks North Carolina the 16th best tax climate in the United States, rising 28 places from its 44th place last October.

North Carolina's new ranking, announced October 28, is the largest improvement in a single year every recorded in the history of the report.

"This is one of the most impressive state tax reform efforts we've seen in the last 10 years," said Tax Foundation Economist and Manager of State Projects Scott Drenkard. "While other states might reform one or two elements of their tax code, North Carolina leapt over 28 states by passing reforms on corporate, individual, and sales taxes. This level of reform - both in scope and craftsmanship - is rare."

The state's performance in the report caught the attention of the *Wall Street Journal*. In an editorial published following the release of the report, the paper noted "the economic benefits should become apparent over time in more investment, jobs and growth."

[Read more.](#)

retention of 232 jobs by PRC Industries. PRC Industries will demolish a pre-treatment water system allowing the company to connect to the town's system.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans approved:

- **Davie County:** \$500,000 to support the reuse of a building located at 205 Enterprise Way in Mocksville. Dunlop Aircraft Tyres, Inc., a manufacturer and retreader of aircraft tires, will move into the building and expand operations. The company has committed to creating 40 new, full-time jobs.
- **The Town of Elkin (Surry County):** \$300,000 to support the reuse of a building located at 119 West Main Street. Prism Medical Products, LLC, a distributor of durable medical equipment, will move into the building and expand operations creating 30 new, full-time jobs.

Economic Infrastructure Program grants approved:

- **The Town of Mocksville (Davie County):** \$332,500 to allow the town to support Gildan construction of a new manufacturing plant off Interstate Drive near I-40 in Mocksville. The proposed improvements for this project are for industrial wastewater improvements. Gildan has committed to create 205 new, full-time jobs.
- **McDowell County:** \$100,000 to allow the county to assist two companies that are being served by private wells. Suttles Trucking and Grading builds roads, provides environmental services, septic installation, and stream restoration services. Adkins Transportation provides transportation for the food industry. Each company indicated that it can create five new, full-time jobs for a total of 10 new, full-time jobs.
- **The Town of Rutherfordton (Rutherford County):** \$500,000 to assist the town and allow Tryon Equestrian Properties to build an equestrian venue that will support both licensed and non-licensed equestrian events and other entertainment events that will support year round economic activity. Tryon Equestrian Properties will create 50 new, full-time positions.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. The grants-making programs of the division include assistance for building reuse and restoration as well as infrastructure including water and sewer.

[Read more.](#)



*Entrepreneur David E. Smith, Director of the UNC School of the Arts Theatre Sound Design Program and developer of the 'Battery Vampire'*

## Innovative N.C. Firm to Compete for International Business Prize

A Winston-Salem entrepreneur will represent the United States in an international business competition later this month in Copenhagen celebrating entrepreneurialism in the creative industries.

David E. Smith of 2ndLifeTech won the 2014 USA Creative Business Cup earlier this year for the company's work on a ground-breaking energy solution called Battery Vampire. The product makes one battery act as two batteries for the purpose of using all the energy up in the remaining battery before it has to be discarded. Unlike most battery-energy solutions, this approach uses all of the energy in the battery with the long-term goal of significantly reducing the 10 billion batteries a year placed in landfills.

Smith is Director of the UNC School of the Arts Theatre Sound Design Program and works as a theatre sound designer and composer throughout the U.S.

The Creative Business Cup is an annual competition, which culminates with the world finals as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. Over fifty nations are expected to take part in this year's finals before a distinguished panel of 20 global judges, dignitaries, and potential investors. The competition focuses exclusively on recent business start-ups that draw upon the talents of the creative industries.

[Competition website.](#)

[Company Kickstarter website with video.](#)



## Commerce Offers New Source of Insightful Economic

(Left-right) Secretary Decker with Robbie Long, Alice Turner, and Whittney Purdie, job training participants from the company Precision Walls

## Governor McCrory and Secretary Decker Open New NCWorks Career Center

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker participated in the grand opening of a new Wake County NCWorks Career Center October 22. This latest career center joins others in offering programs that help employers find qualified workers and people find jobs and training programs.

"Since our first day in office, our team has been focused on improving North Carolina's business climate and connecting people with jobs," said Governor McCrory. "When we launched NCWorks, it was so the N.C. Department of Commerce, the community college system and our public schools could work together under one name and one shared goal of connecting talented job seekers to employers. Our career centers are helping make that happen. I commend the Capital Area Workforce Board for its dedication to putting people to work."

Through the NCWorks initiative, partners will create a stronger alignment of services and resources to meet the workforce needs of businesses, connect North Carolinians to technical training and quality careers, and use data to monitor and assess program outcomes.

"Our NCWorks Career Centers can help businesses find skilled workers, offer grants for on-the-job training, and set-up hiring events or workshops," said Secretary Decker. "We are focused on making the best match between employers and job seekers."

NCWorks online regularly gets more than 5 million page views a week, with more than 519,000 job seekers registered with the system to apply for jobs and see how well their current skills match what employers are looking for.

The new career center is operated by the Capital Area Workforce Development Board, whose members include representatives from businesses, economic development agencies, education, organized labor, public assistance agencies, and community-based organizations. The state has 36 certified career centers.

More information about NCWorks can be found online at [www.nccommerce.com/ncworks](http://www.nccommerce.com/ncworks)

## Commentary

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) has launched a new electronic publication to keep policymakers and others up-to-date with the latest thinking about the North Carolina economy.

The LEAD Feed is a collection of insightful commentaries and analyses that focus on economic and labor market issues impacting North Carolina, the nation, and the world.

LEAD's knowledgeable staff has recently offered posts [assessing the state's growth vs. the Southeast](#), and [analyzing Q3 GDP growth in the U.S. and how North Carolina may be impacted](#).

Follow the LEAD Feed at its home on the Commerce website, <http://www.nccommerce.com/lead/research-publications/the-lead-feed>

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [LabCorp's \\$6 billion acquisition to create giant health care diagnostics company](#) (*News & Observer* - Nov. 3)
- [New aviation group forms with leaders from Honda Aircraft, HAECO and others](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - October 28)
- [Alevo battery plant at Philip Morris site could grow to 6,000 employees](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - October 28)
- [Ashley Furniture now has 657 jobs at Davie County facility](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - October 24)
- [SAS No. 2 on world's 'Great Place to Work' list](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - October 23)
- [Thomas Built Buses selects High Point for 236-job expansion](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - October 23)

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