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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Governor Bev Perdue, Inmar CEO David Mounts and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Perdue announces 212 new jobs with Inmar

Governor Bev Perdue announced on April 26 that Inmar Inc., a technology company that operates collaborative commerce networks, will expand its corporate headquarters in Winston-Salem. The company plans to create 212 jobs over the next five years and invest \$24.5 million. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the [Job Development Investment Grant](#) and the [One North Carolina Fund](#) award. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Jan Critz](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority," said Perdue, "The fact that Inmar chose to expand with us in North Carolina is a testament to our top-notch business climate and the potential to develop a tremendously skilled workforce."

Supported by a continuous investment in technology, Inmar operates three cost-effective networks: Supply Chain, Promotion and Pharmaceutical Services. With the power of speed, these networks move billions of dollars annually, and significant amounts of information and goods among trading partners.

"Inmar has positioned itself to be competitive in the marketplace and we are honored that the City of Winston-Salem, Forsyth County and the State of North Carolina support our vision for economic growth and expansion," said David Mounts, Inmar CEO. "Inmar is all about collaboration and after working with the Governor, the Commissioner and the Mayor it is clear that they are true professionals at collaboration, which results in job creation for the people of



(Left-right) Wilkes Chamber of Commerce President Linda Cheek, N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary of Tourism Lynn Minges and Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Commerce partners with MerleFest, Wilkes Chamber of Commerce

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco spoke at the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce event held on April 26 during [MerleFest](#). Commerce Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges and Commerce Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development Public Relations Manager Margo Metzger also attended the event. The Tourism Division staffed a booth at the festival to offer travel assistance and information about North Carolina economic development.

MerleFest, considered one of the premier music festivals in the country, is held on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the annual festival has become the primary fundraiser for the WCC Endowment Corporation, funding scholarships, capital projects and other educational needs.

North Carolina." [Read more.](#)

[Inmar to expand, add 212 jobs in Winston-Salem](#) (News & Record - Greensboro, April 26)



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Peak 10 President & CEO David Jones, Charlotte Chamber Chairman Frank Emory, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at the Peak 10 announcement on April 25

Peak 10 expands in North Charlotte

[Peak 10 Inc.](#) President and CEO David Jones announced on April 25 that the data center solutions company is expanding its Charlotte operations to the University Research Park area near UNC-Charlotte. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx attended the press conference, held at the Charlotte Chamber.

"Peak 10 is high-tech, innovative, and entrepreneurial, and they are a major spoke in keeping our energy cluster in this region vibrant," stated Crisco.

Peak 10's new 62,000-square-foot facility will be constructed in phases. Phase 1, which will encompass Peak 10's Charlotte 4 data center, is scheduled to be completed in the coming months. Subsequent phases will be completed as the customer base expands. [Read more.](#)

[Peak 10 to build data-center campus in Charlotte](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, April 25)



N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presents a flag to CEO Corey Russ in Fayetteville.

Combat Medical Systems reopens HQ with new showroom, training center

Defense supplier Combat Medical Systems held a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 26 in Fayetteville to re-open their headquarters, which was damaged during a tornado in 2011. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and John Nicholson, military advisor to Governor Bev Perdue, participated in the event with military personnel, veterans, local elected officials and chamber of commerce members. During his keynote address, Carroll recognized Combat Medical Systems CEO Corey Russ, who was [recently profiled](#) in *Inc.* magazine, for his leadership, including his volunteer outreach to tornado victims in the community in 2011. The facility includes a new state-of-the-art showroom and training center.

Hatteras, Holden make 'Best Beaches' list

Two North Carolina beaches are included on the *American Profile* magazine list of Best Beaches in America. The list included 10 categories, with two beaches honored in each. The judges were Stephen P. Leatherman, also known as Dr. Beach, director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University in Miami, and New York City-based travel writer Holly A. Hughes.

In the "Best Family Beach" category, Leatherman's choice was Holden Beach, which he lauded for its laid-back atmosphere and safety. In the "Most Beautiful Beach" category, Hughes chose Cape Hatteras.

"You feel like you're encountering the ocean," she says. "It's windy, there's a bit of surf, and you get that odd feeling that nature is bigger than you are."

[10 Best Beaches](#) (American Profile)

N.C.'s clean energy industry

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Director of Business and Industry Development Susan Fleetwood, Concorde Construction Director of Business Development Holly Alexander, who is also past president of the Charlotte CREW chapter, and S.C. Department of Commerce Director of Global Business Jennifer Noel

Fleetwood participates in commercial real estate conference

On April 19, N.C. Department of Commerce Director of Business and Industry Development Susan Fleetwood presented at the second annual Commercial Real Estate Women Carolinas Connection Conference in Charlotte. This year's Carolinas Connection Conference had over 100 attendees representing all seven CREW chapters in North and South Carolina. These CREW chapters consist of a diverse group of professional women and men engaged in commercial real estate and related service industries. There are a wide range of disciplines represented within CREW, including real estate brokers, attorneys, bankers and title industry professionals, to engineers, developers and architects. The core purpose of CREW is to influence the success of the commercial real estate industry by advancing the achievements of women.

Fleetwood and S.C. Department of Commerce Director of Global Business Jennifer Noel provided an overview of the various regional markets in the two states, including targeted industry sectors. In addition, they provided details on the importance of international companies to the two states, along with details about the types of projects, leading sources of projects, and other key trends in economic development.

Charlotte Douglas ranked No. 2 Best Airport in the U.S.

Travel+Leisure magazine recently ranked Charlotte Douglas International Airport the No. 2 Best Airport in the U.S. The magazine praised the airport for its WiFi access and quick baggage handling. Minneapolis was ranked No. 1. [Read more.](#)

Export grant program targets N.C. small businesses

The N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division is making great strides with the U.S. Small Business Administration's [State Trade and Export Promotion grant program](#). The North Carolina STEP program, administered by the Division, is designed to increase exports and create jobs by helping small businesses promote their products and services in new international markets. The STEP grant program is part of the [National Export Initiative](#) to double U.S. exports by 2015.

As part of the STEP grant program, there is a directive to aid small businesses that are owned by women, veterans and minorities. The grant's primary offerings to small businesses are trade show assistance, export education and reimbursement for the translation of marketing materials into a foreign language.

For more information on the STEP grant program, please contact Export Grant Program Director Theresa Spera at (919) 715-5772 or tspera@nccommerce.com.

ranks 8th in job growth

Environmental Entrepreneurs' recently released report on clean energy job creation in the first quarter of 2012 notes that 46,000 jobs in clean energy could be on America's horizon if all announcements reach their potential. North Carolina, ranked No. 8 on the list of states where clean energy jobs were announced, could see nearly 2,300 of those jobs.

In addition to making the top-ten list for job creation in the industry, North Carolina was one of only four top-ten states that currently has clean energy projects in operation and was ranked No. 2 for projects in progress.

[Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Carol Guensburg, editor at Scripps Howard News Service, and N.C. Department of Commerce Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development Public Relations Manager Margo Metzger during the D.C. media mission

Tourism Division, partners promote N.C. to D.C. media

North Carolina seized an opportunity to share stories about the state from the mountains to the coast to national media in Washington, D.C., last month. The PR team from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, along with 15 partners from across the state, hosted a dinner for 17 journalists in Washington, D.C., on April 17. The evening event included an overview of what's new in the state plus important updates from each of the partners. The partners and media participated in a progressive dinner in which the partners swapped tables (and journalists) during each of the courses allowing the partners maximum face time while keeping the media guests engaged throughout the evening. Media outlets represented at the event included *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, Associated Press, *National Geographic Traveler*, *AARP the Magazine*, *Forbes*, *American Way*, *US News & World Report*, and more.



(Left-right) Yvonne Scarlett, Dottie Schmitt and Steve Brantley of Orange County Economic Development with Tiffany McNeill of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry after the county's community presentation to the Business and Industry staff on April 23

Orange County ED updates business and industry division team

On April 23, staff members of Orange County Economic Development conducted a visit with the N.C. Department of Commerce Division of Business and Industry's team members in Raleigh. Orange County Economic Development Director Steve Brantley introduced his team members, Dottie Schmitt and Yvonne Scarlett, during their visit. They shared a presentation on Orange County's current economic initiatives and offered data on available buildings and sites.



This mobile billboard, sponsored by Onslow County Tourism, circled the Legislative Building in Raleigh during the 2011 N.C. Travel & Tourism Day celebration

N.C. to mark National Travel & Tourism Week, recognize strength of industry's economic impact

North Carolina will recognize National Travel & Tourism Week this month with a range of events locally and statewide designed to highlight the contributions of the travel and tourism industry to the state's economy. Local communities



(Left-right) Karen Wilmot, head of the Swain County Chamber of Commerce, talks to N.C. Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development Tourism Development Manager Andre Nabors, during the April 18 TRAC session in Bryson City

WNC business leaders learn about N.C. tourism programs

Leaders from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development and Business Link North Carolina were in western North Carolina April 18-19 working with tourism-related businesses to share ways to engage more fully with programs offered by the division and its partners. The Division wrapped up its Tourism Resource Assistance Center trip to the western part of the state in Morganton, after a successful session in Bryson City.

The Bryson City TRAC had a strong turn-out with industry partners from regional attractions, accommodations, shops and other tourism-related businesses, in addition to several of the region's tourism marketing representatives. Division managers met with several dozen tourism partners to discuss better ways they could work with the division to better promote themselves.

The Morganton TRAC included a representative from [Business Link North Carolina](#). Business counselors from BLNC met with new and existing tourism business owners and discussed resources available to help move their businesses forward. The event was free and attracted businesses from Burke County and several of the surrounding areas. Several of the attendees were new to owning a business and were grateful for the opportunity to ask questions.

The role of the BLNC counselor is to help North Carolina small businesses by guiding them through the rules and regulations that apply to their particular industry.

The next TRAC session is scheduled for June 20 in Jacksonville. [Learn more.](#)

and businesses are encouraged to mark the period from May 3 through May 17 with events to showcase to policymakers and citizens the integral role tourism plays in the economies all 100 counties in North Carolina.

Visitors traveling to and within the state of North Carolina spent a record \$17 billion in 2010, supporting more than 40,000 North Carolina businesses and directly supporting 183,900 jobs all across the state. State and local tax revenues generated as a result of visitor spending totals more than \$1.5 billion annually.

North Carolina ranks as the sixth most visited state in the United States. The state's natural scenic beauty, rich history and culture, vibrant cities, quaint small towns, and central East Coast location make it an ideal travel destination. And the abundance of direct air access into the state from national and international destinations around the globe has helped to position it as a preferred international travel destination.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development is joining the N.C. Travel & Tourism Coalition, the N.C. Travel Industry Association, and other industry partners to emphasize the economic benefits of tourism. North Carolina's nine Welcome Centers will mark the period with celebrations with partners to thank visitors for traveling to the state, and the state's official recognition of Tourism Day will be on May 16 with a full slate of activities in Raleigh.

Registration open for 2012 State of the Research Triangle Region

Registration is open and limited sponsorships remain for the 2012 State of the Research Triangle Region event on May 24 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Research Triangle Park.

Hundreds of business and community leaders and dozens of sponsors already have signed up for the ninth annual economic development forum, hosted by the Research Triangle Regional Partnership with 2012 naming sponsor Wells Fargo.

"Economic indicators are showing promising signs that our region's economy continues to strengthen and is outpacing other regions of the state and the nation," said RTRP President and CEO Charles A. Hayes. "We look forward to sharing what we're seeing with business and community leaders as well as update them on the results of our collaborative efforts to promote economic growth across all 13 counties." [Learn more.](#)

Strategic Consulting Solutions expands in N.C.

In an effort to support both new and existing clients and further bolster its status as a leading provider of compliant government accounting solutions, Tennessee-based Strategic Consulting Solutions announced the opening of its new office in Fayetteville.



Finalists announced for Best Dish in North Carolina competition

Twenty-five restaurants have been selected to compete this summer in the [Best Dish in North Carolina](#) competition. The finalists will represent one of two regions within the state in either the fine or casual dining category. Each region will have a single judge who will be responsible for choosing that region's winners in both categories. Competition finalists are required to feature the dish or combination of courses in their restaurant for at least a four-week period running between May and September. During this time, the judges will visit each finalist within their region to sample the entries and judge each restaurant on its use of North Carolina products, creativity, presentation, taste and promotion. First-, second- and third-place winners will be announced in November.

The annual event is sponsored by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and *Our State* magazine.

[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 - May 1, 2012

New projects assigned:	141
Projects announced:	44
Jobs announced:	5,568
Capital investment announced:	\$1.56B
Industry visits by existing	403

In SCS's search for a location that would fulfill its strategic growth and economic business goals, Fayetteville immediately stood out. With its proximity to Raleigh-Durham, thriving economy and welcoming community, Fayetteville rose to the top of the ranks. Laura Davis, SCS founder and president, was impressed by the "energy and growth taking place in the area."

Founded in 2002 by Davis, SCS provides accounting services, software and compliance support to government contractors nationwide. From its home office in Oak Ridge, Tenn., SCS provides services including financial statement preparation, billing, payroll processing and incurred cost submissions. SCS is also a Deltek Partner allowing SCS the ability to sell, host and implement compliant software systems to government contractors.

For more information about SCS and its services, please [visit their website](#).

industry staff:

Calls to Business Link N.C.: 7,098

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [New EpiCentre owners say they have deal with MSNBC](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, May 1)
- [WNC growth, economic development focus of meetings in 5 counties](#) (*Carolina Public Press*, April 27)
- [Clyde Cooper's BBQ to move as new development approved](#) (*Raleigh Public Record*, April 25)
- [Furniture maker adding dozens of new jobs](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, April 24)
- [Chobani North American sales HQ coming to Charlotte](#) (*Charlotte Observer*, April 24)

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