



PLASTICS, RUBBER  
AND RELATED CHEMICALS  
INDUSTRY

2008



NORTH CAROLINA

THE STATE OF MINDS



## WE ARE AN ESTABLISHED, INNOVATIVE AND GROWING POLYMERS INDUSTRY

- There are hundreds of “world class” plastics companies in North Carolina that provide a strong base for manufacturing materials, equipment, plastic parts and molds.
- North Carolina is the 7th largest plastics manufacturing state in the nation for shipments and is 8th largest in plastics industry employment in the nation.
- North Carolina’s plastics, rubber and related chemical industries employed an average of 44,450 workers in second quarter 2005. These industries employ 8% of North Carolina’s manufacturing workforce.
- In the second quarter of 2005, there were more than 650 plastics, rubber and related chemical facilities in North Carolina.
- Plastic and Rubber is the 3rd largest export industry in North Carolina; chemicals is the 6th largest export industry in the state.

## WE OFFER A HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE

- 44,450 workers are employed in the polymer industry and specialty chemical industry, with skill sets ranging from plastics technicians to chemical engineers and PhDs.
- The North Carolina Community College System provides one of the state’s greatest incentives by developing, at no charge, customized training programs for qualifying new and expanding industries.
- The Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at North Carolina State University is consistently ranked among the best in the southeast. The department offers multidisciplinary programs in biotechnology, catalysis, electronic materials, polymers, molecular thermodynamics, colloid and surface science, and pollution prevention.

## WE HAVE CREATED COMPREHENSIVE PLASTICS TRAINING PROGRAMS

### **NC Community College Manufacturing Certification**

Through North Carolina’s Community College System, a North Carolina Manufacturing Certification Program for Level II Plastics prepares candidates at each of the 58 Community Colleges for the National Certification in Plastics (NCP) examination. Curriculum is available for injection molding, extrusion, thermoforming, and blow molding processes.

### **The Materials Testing Lab at Isothermal Community College**

The Materials Testing Lab is designed to perform a variety of tests on composite, plastic, fiberglass, and metallic materials. Training in the use of this equipment is also provided to the plastics industry.

### **Plastics Technician Training Program At Asheville - Buncombe Technical Community College**

The Plastics Technician Program provides a foundation for understanding the operation, set-up and trouble-shooting of plastics processing machinery such as blown film, injection molding, extrusion, blow molding and auxiliary equipment.

## WE ARE HOME TO SOME OF THE LARGEST PLASTICS, RUBBER AND CHEMICAL FACILITIES

Alcatel	Kimberly Clark	Southeastern Container
Bonset America	GE Polymerland	Microban
Southern Film Extruders	NYPRO	Technimark, Inc.
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry	DAK Americas	Consolidated Metco
DuPont	Ticona	Nampac
GE Sealants & Adhesives	Toter, Inc.	Silverline Plastics

## LOCATION INCENTIVES

- Low energy and construction costs
- Highly skilled workforce
- Comprehensive transportation network
- Lowest unionization rate in the nation
- High labor productivity
- Work force training
- Exceptional education incentives

## WE OFFER THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO TAKE YOUR INDUSTRY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- Six international offices provide multi-faceted services to companies including market research and analysis, lead generation and assistance with building relationships and contacts – offices are located in Toronto, Frankfurt, Mexico City, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul.
- Certified industrial sites strategically located throughout the state reduce the costs and timing of construction for new plastics, rubber and related chemical industries facilities
- Permit assistance to move projects forward at the speed of business
- Comprehensive facility location services through the Business & Industry Division, from initial contact and site location to future growth and expansion
- The Business ServiCenter has been established by the North Carolina Department of Commerce as a “one-stop” portal for assistance and information on resources, programs, services, licensing and regulatory requirements for new and existing businesses in North Carolina. Call the Business ServiCenter at (919) 715-2864 or (800) 228-8443.

## THE POLYMERS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The Polymers Center of Excellence is a not-for-profit organization located at the University Research Park in Charlotte, NC. The staff is backed by a network of industry lecturers, consultants and faculty members from NC institutions of higher learning. The Center was developed to support a rapidly growing number of North Carolina companies that manufacture plastics and rubber products to provides test labs, hands-on training and continuing education for these industries.

[polymers-center.org](http://polymers-center.org)

# NORTH CAROLINA

## THE STATE OF MINDS



“Our company specializes in the transformation of engineered synthetic materials. Over the years we have grown with the help of an excellent business environment in North Carolina as well as with the support of the technical community colleges that have helped train and educate our dedicated work force. The constructive and helpful attitude of the state and local government and officials has also contributed to our success. North Carolina has helped our business in many ways! In addition, North Carolina’s natural beauty and abundant recreational and cultural activities have made it easier for us to attract and retain quality employees.”

— Mark Noël, Chairman  
Noel Group LLC



“I want to express our gratitude for the vital support the State of North Carolina has provided throughout the years as we’ve expanded our plant in Wilmington, N.C. – An excellent port and transportation infrastructure, which provide ready access to domestic and overseas markets, as well as a technology-ready workforce. Another essential factor is the exceptional support the state and local agencies provide through a shared-risk, shared-reward partnership.”

— Steve Ridge, President  
Fortron Industries LLC



“DAK Americas has been impressed that the NC Department of Commerce recognizes and values not only new companies with opportunities to move into North Carolina, but existing industries already in North Carolina. As an existing industry, we have the ability to expand and grow our current business or establish new business ventures, both of which bring significant economic development in the form of new jobs and revenue. It is also encouraging that you recognize the added benefit of having a focus on the growth and expansion of existing industry.”

— Ricky Lane, Public Affairs & Trade Relations Manager  
DAK Americas LLC



### North Carolina Department of Commerce Business/Industry Development Division

4310 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
919-733-4977  
[www.nccommerce.com](http://www.nccommerce.com)

