

# **Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund:**

## **Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

## **Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund**

### **Original JMAC Statute and Awards under Original Legislation**

The Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund (the “JMAC”) Program (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-437.012) is a discretionary incentive program that, in its original formulation, provided sustained annual grants to businesses (i) with at least 2,000 permanent full-time workers, (ii) located in Development Tier 1 counties, and (iii) which invest at least \$200 million in capital improvements within 6 years of initial expenditure. The purpose of a JMAC grant is to encourage retention of significant numbers of high-paying, high-quality jobs and large-scale capital investment, enlarge the overall tax base, and increase revenues to the State and its political subdivisions. Grant recommendations are made by the Economic Investment Committee (the “EIC”) to the Secretary of Commerce, based on a thorough review of the factors enumerated in the Criteria for Operation and Implementation of Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund Program (the “JMAC Criteria”), adopted on December 13, 2007, and amended October 14, 2014, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143B-437.012(i)(1), as amended effective July 1, 2010, and as amended effective July 1, 2014. A total of 5 grants may be made under the JMAC program.

Under the JMAC statute as originally enacted, two grants were awarded during fiscal year 2008-09. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (“Goodyear”) and Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire LLC (“Bridgestone”) were each awarded a grant for up to \$30,000,000 over ten years, to modernize their tire manufacturing facilities.

### **Amendment to Original JMAC Statute and Additional Award**

Amendment to the JMAC Statute was approved, effective July 1, 2010 (Session Law 2009-520) (the “JMAC Amendment”), which increased the amount that could be awarded under the JMAC program, from \$60,000,000 to \$69,000,000. Thus, an additional \$9,000,000 could be awarded. Eligibility requirements were expanded to include a large manufacturing employer (as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-129.81) that is converting its manufacturing process to change its product, that invests at least \$65,000,000 within a 3 year period, and that employs 320 full-time workers which it agrees to maintain for the full grant term.

Domtar Paper Company, LLC (“Domtar”) was awarded a grant on April 14, 2012 for up to \$7,000,000 over 10 years to convert the company’s pulp and paper mill to fluff pulp production.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to Original JMAC Statute and 4<sup>th</sup> Award**

Amendment to the JMAC Statute was approved, effective July 1, 2014 (Session Law 2014-118) (the “2<sup>nd</sup> JMAC Amendment”), which increased the amount that could be awarded under the JMAC program from \$69,000,000 to \$79,000,000. Eligibility requirements for a large manufacturing employer (as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §105.129.81) were amended to include a business that is investing in its manufacturing process by enhancing pollution controls or transition the manufacturing process from coal to using natural gas for the purpose of becoming more energy efficient. In addition the required investment was amended to \$50,000,000 within a five year period beginning with the time the investment commences. Finally, the employment requirements were amended to include businesses in a development tier 2 with a population of less than 60,000 as of July 1, 2013, with an employment level of at least 800 full-time employees or equivalent full-time contract employees.

Blue Ridge Paper Products Inc. (“Blue Ridge”) was awarded a grant on December 19, 2014 for up to \$12,000,000 over 10 years to support conversion of critical equipment and allow the company to comply with federal EPA regulations.

### **Measurement of Grant Payment Eligibility for all JMAC Grantees**

The annual amount for which each JMAC grantee is eligible, if performance criteria are met, is based on the sum of the following eligible expenses: (i) 95% of certain statutorily specified eligible taxes; (ii) 100% of confirmed worker training expenses; and (iii) 100% of confirmed eligible State fees paid. Grantees generally qualify based principally on worker training expenses incurred to train workers on the new equipment purchased to modernize their facilities.

Grantees are ineligible for a grant payment for any year in which they fail to retain the required minimum number of eligible workers, fail to satisfy the wage requirement, or fail to make the required health insurance available to workers. Grants will be terminated for three consecutive years of failure to retain the required workers or to meet the wage standard. Grants must be repaid for failure to make the required investment within the specified time period.

### Summary of Grantee Performance Criteria

Performance criteria for grant payment eligibility for these four grantees are as follows:

Company	Jobs for Full Payment	Jobs for Prorated Payment and minimum to avoid default	Investment	Wages	Other
Goodyear	2,398	1,918	\$200 million by 2012	140% of average county wage in Cumberland County	Worker health insurance
Bridgestone	2,083	1,666	\$200 million by 2010	140% of the average county wage in Wilson County	Worker health insurance
Domtar	320	n/a	\$65 million by October 10, 2012	140% of the average county wage in Martin County	Worker health insurance
Blue Ridge	800	n/a	\$50,00,000 by December 31, 2019	140% of the average county wage in Haywood County	Worker health insurance

### Grant Payments

Grant payments to Goodyear and Bridgestone were made in FY 2014-2015 for the performance year ending December 1, 2013, after Commerce’s analysis and confirmation of the companies’ annual JMAC reports. Goodyear received a grant payment of \$2,694,746, based on its report of 2154 eligible employees, with an average wage of \$67,873, required average annual wage of \$47,600, and investment of \$231,850,533, and (ii) Bridgestone received a grant payment of \$2,674,508 for a reported 1857 eligible positions, with an average wage of \$59,810, required average annual wage of \$53,917, and investment of \$211,210,315. Both companies have met their investment requirement under these grants.

A grant payment to Domtar was made in FY 2014-2015 for the performance year ending December 31, 2013, after Commerce’s analysis and confirmation of the companies’ annual JMAC report. Domtar received a grant payment of \$1,500,000, based on its report of 417 eligible employees, with an average wage of \$91,149, required average annual wage of \$44,321, and investment of \$85,888,281. Domtar has met its investment requirement under this grant.

#### Payments Made Through FY 2014-2015

Company	Total Grant Amount	Amount Received To-Date	Amount of Grant Remaining
Goodyear	\$30 million	\$17,107,173	\$12,500,000
Bridgestone	\$30 million	\$16,103,457	\$12,500,000
Domtar	\$7 million	\$5,000,000	\$2,000,000
Blue Ridge	\$12 million	\$0	\$12,000,000

Goodyear and Bridgestone each are eligible for up to \$3,000,000, and Domtar is eligible for up to \$1,500,000 for their 2014 performance, if they meet the performance criteria. These annual reports are under review, and all payments are expected to be made in fiscal year 2015-2016. Blue Ridge was not required to report for the 2014 grant year.