

Williamsburg County, S.C., Set to Become Solar Showcase

With its ready workforce and convenient mid-Atlantic location, Williamsburg County has long been a compelling backdrop for traditional industries. This year, with the arrival of a unique new corporate resident, the rural South Carolina county is poised to become the regional hub for an emerging industry: solar energy products, services and know-how. Local, state and regional officials joined executives of Solar Energy Initiatives, Inc., in unveiling plans to launch a major presence in Kingstree, where it is building a 40-acre campus that will house training, manufacturing, distribution and headquarters operations.



“What we’re doing is building a solar showcase,” explained David Fann, chief executive officer of the publicly traded company (OTC: SNRY), now based in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. The company is upfitting a 200,000-sq.-ft. former textile plant, the initial phase of which will be a “solar academy” for builders, contractors and electricians. “We teach them the solar business,” Fann said. Once trained, graduates become licensed dealers for Solar Energy Initiatives. Currently, the firm maintains a network of 130 dealers across 30 states. Training for some dealers is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Fann said. The company’s Williamsburg County site will also serve as a distribution center. “The community’s central East Coast location is ideal for distribution,” said Fann.

The company’s manufacturing partners intend to co-locate at the new site. Solar Energy Initiatives’ brand of photovoltaic and thermal systems provides solar energy solutions for large-scale commercial and local government buyers. Kingstree’s proximity to the Port of Charleston, one hour away, will help connect the company to global customers and suppliers. “We’re moving our world headquarters to this facility,” Fann said. An on-site solar farm will power the complex itself. “There’s no facility like this in the world.”

Solar Energy Initiatives’ plans call for creating 500 jobs at the campus during the coming three years, with positions spanning technicians, distribution workers and manufacturing personnel. “This project is a success story for our entire region,” said

Jeff McKay, executive director of the North East Strategic Alliance (NESA), the nine-county economic development partnership that worked closely with state and local leaders in bringing the project to fruition.

IN THIS ISSUE

South Carolina: Landing Gear Maker Touches Down in South Carolina

Community Focus: Gulf County, Florida

North Carolina: In North Carolina, Job Growth through Small Business Development

Progress Energy News: Thermal Energy Storage Saves – Progress Energy Presents UCF Record Rebate Check

RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACAS Landing Gear
Marion County, S.C.
 Remanufacturer of electronic aircraft accessories
 \$5 million capital investment
 300 jobs

CCNA (Coca-Cola)
Orange County, Fla.
 Flavoring manufacturing operation
 \$40 million capital investment
 10 new jobs

Frontier Spinning
Lee County, N.C.
 Yarn maker for knitting & weaving trades
 \$15.5 million capital investment
 45 jobs

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Landing Gear Maker Touches Down in South Carolina

The migration of aerospace manufacturer Boeing to Charleston is rippling economic benefits for Marion County, South Carolina, a community hard hit by recent job losses. In February, ACAS Landing Gear Services announced its intention to invest \$5 million in a facility in Marion, where it will ramp up a 300-person workforce over the coming five years. The firm, headquartered in Florida, will collaborate with South Carolina's "readySC," a workforce development program that ensures arriving firms have ready access to the human resources they need. "ReadySC will put together a training program customized around the specific skill sets ACAS needs for its operations," said Rodney Berry, executive director of the Marion County Economic Development Commission. Hiring will likely begin by midsummer, he added.



photo provided by The Boeing Company

ACAS, a global provider of repair and overhaul services for aviation components, will remanufacture landing gear for various models of Boeing aircraft. The transformative economic potential of Boeing's recent launch of a final assembly plant in Charleston has been likened to BMW's arrival in upstate South Carolina in the early 1990s. Berry expects other aviation firms may find their way to northeastern South Carolina, lured by abundant manufacturing workers and the success of companies like ACAS. "We certainly will pursue additional opportunities as the company grows," Berry said.

FEATURED PROPERTY: RUSSELL STOVER BUILDING

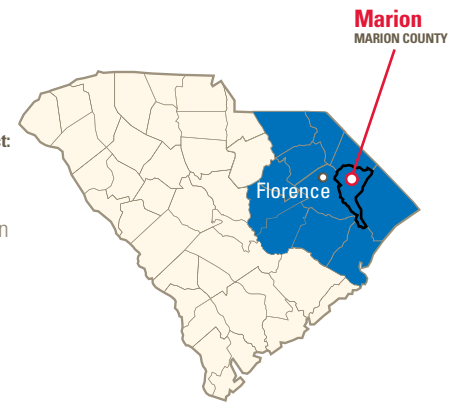


2212 East Highway 76
Marion, S.C.

Size/acres	276,541 SF (office, manufacturing & warehouse)
Interstate and airport access	I-95 – 16 miles; Florence Regional Airport – 21 miles
Interior	27'x50' in warehouse
• Column	24' – center; 15' – eaves
• Ceiling height	41.4 SF (-10 degrees F); 17'6" clear ceiling height
• Freezer	
Exterior/docks	Insulated brick on concrete blocks; 11 docks
Utilities	3-phase electric power; 2,500 kVa transformer; 480Y/277 secondary voltage; natural gas
Sale/lease/former use	For sale/candy producer & distributor

For more information, contact:

Rodney Berry
 Marion County Economic Development Commission
 1.843.423.8235
 rberry@marionsc.org
 Marioncountysc.com



SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS

Jack Ellenberg, deputy secretary at the S.C. Department of Commerce, was named 2010 Person of the Year by *Southern Business & Development* magazine for his work in landing the Boeing Company's second final 787 Dreamliner assembly plant.

Tonny McNeil is the new director of the Dillon County Economic Development Board – 1.843.774.1402; dilloncountymb@bellsouth.net.

Did you know...

South Carolina again ranks among Top 10 states on *Chief Executive's* annual survey of best and worst states for business. More than 600 CEOs rated states on a wide range of criteria from taxation and regulation to workforce quality and living environment.
 May/June 2010

Progress Energy Contact South Carolina

Mindy Taylor / 1.843.661.4180
 mindy.taylor@pgnmail.com

Kaydon Corporation
Sumter County, S.C.
 Custom bearing facility expansion
 \$8.9 million capital investment
 75 jobs

McCall Farms
Florence County, S.C.
 Farming, canning & distribution company expansion
 \$9 million capital investment
 65 new jobs

Mountaire Farms
Robeson County, N.C.
 International supplier of processed chicken
 \$17.9 million capital investment
 51 new jobs

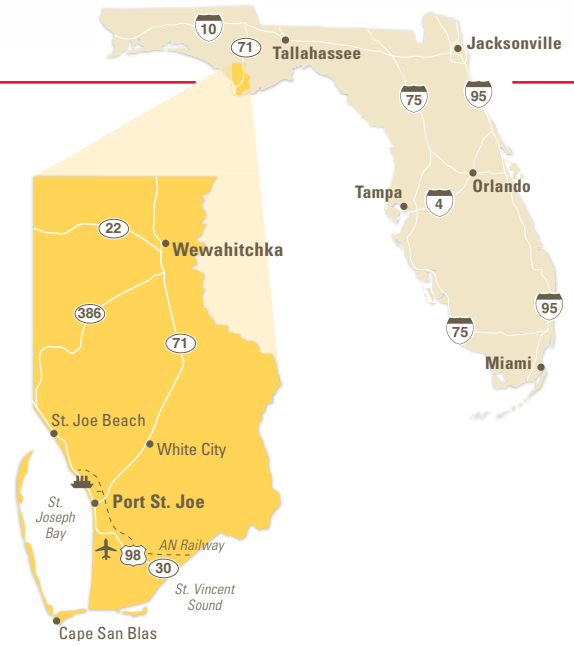
COMMUNITY FOCUS

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

Surplus utility capacity, abundant waterfront sites and a legacy of support for industry are positioning Gulf County, Fla., for growth in global commerce, alternative energy and more. Those assets are complementing sound strategic planning by the community's forward-looking leaders. "The unique advantages we have here align nicely with a number of exciting, growth-oriented industries," said Ed Nelson, executive director of the Gulf County Economic Development Council.

With support from inside and outside the county, Nelson and others are piecing together plans to make Gulf County a destination for renewable energy producers and products. The first step is under way as state regulators consider plans for a \$160 million project by Biomass Gas & Electric. Once permits are in place, the Georgia-based company can move ahead in building a 42-MW electric generating plant that will be fed by 735 tons of woody biomass per day. Gulf County's accessibility by water, highway and rail made it a ready fit for the company. "Port St. Joe really is an ideal place," said Biomass President Glenn Farris, noting the flexibility that comes with so many transportation options. "And on top of that, the community really supported us."

Port St. Joe, as the longtime home to a now-shuttered paper mill, has ample industrial properties and infrastructure. "The mill left us with significant surplus capacity in water, wastewater treatment, rail, natural gas and electrical service," explained Tommy Pitts, director of the Port of Port St. Joe. "We've got a community with a history of supporting industrial operations that wants the well-paying jobs that industry brings." Exciting plans are under way to modernize Gulf County's port, a facility that saw its first shipping activity in the 1700s. Pitts is spearheading efforts to acquire waterside properties, build deepwater bulkheads, extend roads and assemble other necessary amenities. Port St. Joe offers a more direct route to the Panama Canal than larger shipping terminals in other parts of the state and would be ideal for smaller container vessels displaced by Florida's more congested ports, Pitts said.



Gulf County is also elevating its support for small- and medium-sized business. Nelson has drafted, for instance, a list of proposed incentives for consideration by county and municipal leaders. "We're developing new local incentives to complement state programs that are geared to helping smaller companies," Nelson said.



The Port of Port St. Joe is a key component of Gulf County's industrial transportation network.

Pilgrim's Pride
 Suwannee County, Fla.
 Chicken processing plant
 \$1.5 million capital investment
 35 new jobs

PolyQuest, Inc.
 Darlington County, S.C.
 Producer of PET resins
 \$8 million capital investment
 30 new jobs

The Plastek Group
 Richmond County, N.C.
 Producer of molded plastics for
 consumer items
 \$19 million capital investment
 250 new jobs

FLORIDA news

AT A GLANCE

- Location: Part of Panama City MSA and panhandle; 77 miles southwest of Tallahassee
- Land Area: 555 sq. miles (1437.44 sq. kms)
- Population: 16,351 (2010, est.)
- Workforce (50-mile radius): 115,535 (2009, est.)
- Unemployment Rate: 11.8 percent (March 2010)
- Average Household Income: \$45,581 (2010, est.)

TRANSPORTATION

- Highways: U.S. Highway 98 and State Routes 30, 71 and 22.
- Ports: Port of Port St. Joe is now undertaking significant upgrades to handle a variety of shipping formats. County is traversed by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
- Air: Commercial service available nearby at the Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP). General aviation service available at Costin Airport (A51).
- Rail: Industrial service via AN Railway; nearby connection to CSX Transportation.

ENTERPRISE ZONE INCENTIVES

- Jobs Tax Credit (Sales & Use Tax/ Corp. Income Tax)
- Building Materials Sales Tax Refund
- Business Equipment Sales Tax Refund
- Property Tax Credit (Corp. Income Tax)

EDUCATION

- Gulf County District Schools boast graduation rates that are among Florida's highest.
- Gulf Coast Community College's Port St. Joe campus offers vocational programs, college-transfer courses and continuing education.
- Nearby, Florida State University-Panama City Campus provides undergraduate and graduate degrees across a broad array of disciplines.

KEY INDUSTRIAL RESIDENTS

- Bayside Lumber
- Fairpoint Communications
- GAC Contractors
- Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative
- Premier Chemical LLC
- Raffield Fisheries
- Tapper & Company
- Taunton Truss
- Whitfield Timber
- Wood's Fisheries

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Gulf County's outdoor recreation includes deep-sea and freshwater fishing, golf, hunting, boating and tennis.
- Newly constructed Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf provides state-of-the-art emergency services, surgical care and out-patient treatments.

Sources: Enterprise Florida; Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation; Gulf County Economic Development Council; U.S. Census Bureau.

Cindi Foreman has joined Hamilton County Development Authority as assistant director – 1.386.792.6828; hamiltonTDC@windstream.net.

Brian Walters has joined Metro Orlando Economic Development Corporation as its new executive vice president of Innovation & Business Development – 1.407.422.7159; brian.walters@orlandoedc.com.

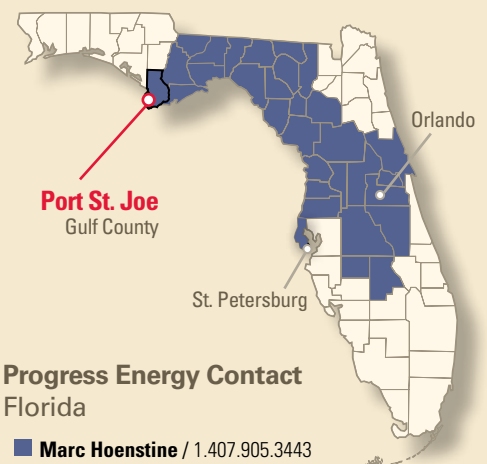
Did you know...

Florida's biotech employment has grown 18 percent according to a study released in May by Battelle and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). Florida's strong bioscience workforce ranked sixth nationally in both postsecondary bioscience degrees generated and in bioscience-related occupational employment.

Source: The Battelle/BIO State Bioscience Initiatives 2010

Florida is ranked the nation's 4th largest cyberstate employing 292,300 high-tech workers at 24,500 establishments.

Source: Cyberstates 2010: The Definitive State-by-State Analysis of the High-Technology Industry



**Progress Energy Contact
 Florida**

Marc Hoenstine / 1.407.905.3443
 marc.hoenstine@pgnmail.com

NORTH CAROLINA:

In North Carolina, Job Growth through Small Business Development

About 95 percent of North Carolina companies employ fewer than 100 workers. Thus, as state leaders hone strategies for job growth, new programs for supporting small businesses are moving to the foreground. "Our small businesses have learned how to live lean and mean," said Scott Daugherty, who was appointed by Governor Beverly Perdue earlier this year to serve as North Carolina's first Small Business Commissioner.

The centerpiece of the new programs, "BizBoost," sends business counselors from the state's Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) to help position firms for survival and success as economic recovery takes root. BizBoost, driven in part with federal Workforce Investment Act funds, offers small businesses



access to the same level of outside expertise large corporations tap to help them adapt and succeed.

The Perdue Administration is also backing a proposed "Founder's Tax Credit" that would encourage entrepreneurs to keep their firms in the state, a health insurance tax credit for small companies and a "Second Bite Opportunity" that will give North Carolina small businesses help when bidding on state government contracts. "Right now, over 60 percent of North Carolina contracts go to out-of-state firms," Daugherty said. "We'd like to keep some of those dollars here."

FEATURED PROPERTY: BURLINGTON PLANT BUILDING



325 Lewis Street
Oxford, N.C.

Size/acres	191,000 SF (office/manufacturing/warehouse)
Interstate and airport access	I-85 – 1 mile RDU – 38 miles
Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling height 31' (manufacturing facility) • Floor thickness 6" w/drains
Exterior	Brick & industrial block
Utilities	5,000 kVA transformer; 480Y/277 secondary voltage; natural gas; digital fiber optics
Sale/lease/former use	For lease/former use textile & metal fabrication

For more information contact:

James K. "Jay" Tilley
Granville Economic Development Commission
1.919.693.5911
jtilley@granvillecounty.com
Granvillecounty.com

NORTH CAROLINA news

Nancy Johnston is the new director of the NC Biotechnology Center's Piedmont Triad Office – 1.336.725.6672; nancy_johnston@ncbiotech.org

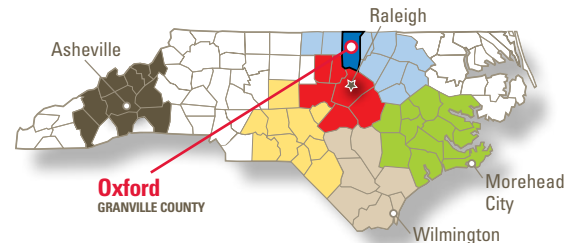
Jennifer Bossler has joined Wake County Economic Development as its new assistant executive director – 919.664.7045; jbossler@raleighchamber.org

James Sauls is the new executive director of Fuquay-Varina Economic Development Commission – 1.919.753.1031; jsauls@fuquay-varina.org

Doug Byrd has joined Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce as its new government liaison – 1.910.484.4242, ext. 245; dbyrd@fayettevillencchamber.org

Did you know...

North Carolina was ranked the No. 2 Best State for Business by CEOs in *Chief Executive's* annual survey of best and worst states for business. May/June 2010



Progress Energy Contacts North Carolina

- **Marty Clayton** / 1.919.878.5300
marty.clayton@pgnmail.com
- **Andy Honeycutt** / 1.910.944.5322
andy.honeycutt@pgnmail.com
- **John Elliott** / 1.910.509.7327
john.elliott@pgnmail.com
- **Dan Oliver** / 1.910.346.1453
dan.oliver@pgnmail.com
- **Tanya Evans** / 1.252.438.1900
tanya.evans@pgnmail.com
- **Martha Thompson** / 1.828.258.5019
martha.thompson@pgnmail.com

PROGRESS ENERGY NEWS:

Thermal Energy Storage Saves – Progress Energy Presents UCF Record Rebate Check



Progress Energy Florida President and CEO Vinny Dolan presented UCF President John Hitt a record-breaking rebate check for their Thermal Energy Storage Unit.

In a recent ceremony held on the University of Central Florida’s campus, Progress Energy Florida President and CEO Vinny Dolan presented UCF President John Hitt a record-breaking rebate check. UCF received a check for \$637,000 for the university’s long-term, energy-efficient investment of \$3 million in a facility that can store 3 million gallons of chilled water. The funds represent a \$300-per-kilowatt incentive for energy use reduced from peak to off-peak timing.

The new Thermal Energy Storage Facility – the only one of its kind at a Florida university – allows UCF to chill water at night, taking advantage of Progress Energy’s off-peak energy rate. The off-peak rate, which is available to a large percentage of the company’s commercial and industrial customers, is approximately 50 percent lower than the utility’s peak rate.

“To earn the greatest return on their energy-efficiency dollar, we encourage all of our customers to not only use energy wisely, but to invest wisely in energy efficiency,” said Dolan. “This is precisely what UCF has done through the development of the university’s Thermal Energy Storage Facility.”

The facility’s tank measures 110 feet in diameter and is 42 feet tall. Two 200-horsepower pumps act in parallel to move the chilled water from the tank into the campus distribution system. The tank’s capacity and its rate of discharge are

approximately equivalent to those of a 2,000-ton, electrically driven refrigeration machine.

By chilling the water at night and using it to cool UCF buildings during the heat of the day, UCF expects to save an estimated \$685,000 annually in energy costs. Progress Energy benefits because the university is using less power during peak usage times, reducing the need for generation when customers’ collective energy use is typically highest.

“Whatever the challenges, UCF will continue to apply the talents of its people to reduce our institutional impact upon the environment. It is the right thing to do,” Hitt said. “It is also the economical thing to do. In the past 15 months and with the help of our partners, we have saved almost \$1 million by the sustainability measures we have adopted.”



circuit

CAROLINAS

Gene Upchurch, Vice President
External Relations, Carolinas

Katherine Thomas, Director
Community Relations
& Economic Development

FLORIDA

Chris Flack, Director
External Relations, Florida

MARKETING TEAM

Deborah Parker 1.919.546.7943
deborah.parker@pgnmail.com

Ginger Caporal 1.919.546.6061
ginger.caporal@pgnmail.com

