

PRESS RELEASE

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CANADIAN BOAT BUILDER ANNOUNCES EDENTON-CHOWAN COUNTY FACILITY

Edenton, NC – Millennium Marine USA, a subsidiary of Millennium Marine of New Brunswick, Canada has announced that Edenton, NC will be the location for its first US boatbuilding facility. The company will build commercial and recreational fishing boats at a new manufacturing facility at the Edenton-Chowan Airport Industrial Park.

In making the announcement, Governor Mike Easley commented, “Millennium Marine’s decision to locate in North Carolina is further evidence our business-friendly climate and skilled workforce are attracting good companies,” Easley said. “We will continue to make the necessary investments in workforce development, education and infrastructure.”

Millennium Marine will create 38 new jobs and invest over \$1.5 million over the next three years. A One North Carolina Fund Grant in the amount of \$75,000 was an integral part of the company’s decision to locate in North Carolina rather than competing locations.

Cory Guimond, President of Millennium Marine, first looked south of North Carolina for a US manufacturing facility. “I visited three states in search for the ideal location to open this new business. On my way back to Canada with full intention to close a deal with your neighbors to the south, I was welcomed by the North Carolina’s Northeast Commission team and visited six potential sites in two days,” Guimond commented. “Several weeks later my location of choice was determined based on location, and existing boat building industry, a skilled workforce, access to required products and services, the College of the Albemarle boat building courses, and Edenton is simply a beautiful place to live.”

The Northeast team, which included the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Commission, and the North Carolina Department of Commerce, worked seamlessly to recruit this project North Carolina. Guimond added, “the aggressiveness of the NCREDC, Department of Commerce, and Edenton/Chowan County was clearly demonstrated when they made a special trip to Canada on a cold December day to visit my Canadian boat building operation. After the holidays we began working out the details and only two months later... here we are.”

Gene Rogers, Chairman of North Carolina’s Northeast Commission, added, “Boatbuilding is an important economic engine in the Northeast Region. I am confident Millennium will find all the resources it needs to be successful.”

The Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation played a pivotal role in bringing this project to Northeast North Carolina. “With the closing of George C. Moore, we recognized how much we needed to provide new employment opportunities to our community, said Roland Vaughan, Mayor of Edenton and Chairman of the Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation.” “Millennium will work with The

College of the Albemarle, Job Link and other resources to recruit and train workers. “Wages will vary by job, but the average weekly wage will be \$558 plus benefits, which exceeds Chowan County’s wage standard of \$461.”

North Carolina’s Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through industrial and business development and tourism. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the Northeastern North Carolina Regional Economic Development Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com and www.visitncne.com.

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