

## Halifax County Economic Development Commission

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# PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **NEW MANUFACTURING PROJECT ANNOUNCED FOR HALIFAX COUNTY**

*FASTA, Inc., will create 105 jobs in Littleton*

Littleton, NC – FASTA (Foam and Steel Technology Associates), Inc., a manufacturer of steel and foam construction panels, announced today its plans to locate its first manufacturing facility in the Town of Littleton in Halifax County. The company will lease the 52,142 square foot Littleton Industrial Building, which is owned by Halifax County. The company will invest \$2.5 million in machinery and equipment and create 105 new jobs.

Earlier today, Governor Bev Perdue announced FASTA's decision to locate in North Carolina was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The 105 new jobs will pay an average of \$28,707, which is more than the Halifax County average annual wage of \$25,948.

"FASTA's selection of Halifax County for its first manufacturing facility is a testament to our strategic location and the availability of workers to get the job done," commented Gene Minton, Chairman of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners. "FASTA fits the mold of the ideal company we want to locate in Halifax County. We expect the return on our investment in the Littleton Industrial Building will pay dividends for years to come," Minton added.

FASTA, Inc. is a Virginia-based manufacturer of pre-engineered steel panels and components for the international, residential, commercial and institutional markets. FASTA will produce steel panels and trusses at the Littleton facility, incorporating "green" building practices. "Green" building practices include designing and constructing homes that use energy, water, and materials efficiently, resulting in a reduced impact on the physical environment.

With ownership of advanced residential and commercial building components technology, FASTA's steel and foam building panels will provide high quality, energy efficient, and environmentally friendly green building systems for which the demand is already proven. The company's systems are 100% recyclable and virtually hurricane-proof. FASTA has assembled a team of operational, sales, and production professionals for its first manufacturing plant in Halifax County.

Littleton, known as the "gateway to Lake Gaston" lost its last manufacturing company about 10 years ago. "This left a tremendous void in the Town," commented Mayor Mason Hawfield. "Having 105 manufacturing jobs in the town limits will be a significant boost for Littleton and the surrounding area. We look forward to working with FASTA to make this a successful endeavor."

Through the support of the Golden LEAF Foundation, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, the Town of Littleton, and Halifax County Business Horizons, Halifax County officials purchased the Littleton Industrial Building in 2004 and renovated the facility to accommodate a manufacturer that was interested in the location. The project fell through in December of last year, which opened the door for FASTA, Inc.

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FASTA's owner, Terry Fowler, Colonel USAF (ret), is no stranger to the Halifax County Area. Fowler met his wife, Brenda, during his first tour of duty with the Air Force in Roanoke Rapids and fell in love with the "Carolina lifestyle." As a colonel in the Air Force, he learned the value of hard working people. "The folks in Halifax County know how to put in a hard day's work and they appreciate a decent job," commented Fowler. We have studied the need for affordable housing and it's huge. With the labor resources in Eastern North Carolina, we hope to make Littleton and Halifax County the affordable "green" home capital of the world."

"FASTA's announcement to bring this new facility to Halifax County is symbolic of the dynamic economy in which we work and live," said Frank Avent, Chairman of the Halifax County Economic Development Commission. "We are extremely proud to celebrate FASTA's new beginning as a productive and vibrant production facility."

#### About Halifax County EDC

The Halifax County Economic Development Commission (HCEDC) is a 12-member advisory board appointed by the Halifax County Board of Commissioners to implement activities to support the recruitment, expansion and retention of new and existing business and industry in Halifax County. For additional information, contact the Halifax County EDC at 252-519-2630 or visit [www.halifaxdevelopment.com](http://www.halifaxdevelopment.com).