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# Work under way on FedEx expansion

## Shipper to add seven more workers by 2013

By Cathy Wilson  
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**HERTFORD — Site work has** started on the new FedEx distribution center at the Perquimans County Commerce Centre.

The 28,000-square-foot building, which FedEx will lease from Hertford Baseline Development, is an expansion of the shipping firm's current facility on Don Juan Road.

According to officials, the new facility, when it opens in July will allow FedEx to increase its full-time staff in Hertford to three and its part-time staff to 18 by 2013. The company employs two full-time and 12 part-time workers at its current facility in Hertford.

William Ronalter, manager of Hertford Baseline Development, indicated that local incentive packages offered by Perquimans County and the town of Hertford were a key factor in FedEx's decision to expand its facility in Hertford.

Hertford Baseline recently purchased approximately 8.36 acres at the Commerce Centre for \$25,000 an acre. Under the Perquimans incentives package, the county agreed to reimburse Hertford Baseline a portion of its land-purchase costs.

The reimbursement is based on Baseline's taxable investment in the project once the building is completed. Baseline's investment in the building has to be at least \$500,000 to qualify for the lowest incentive available — 25 percent.

According to officials, Baseline's projected investment in the project will be \$3 million, so the county will be reimbursing Baseline for 100 percent of its land costs — roughly \$209,000.

The town of Hertford also agreed to award incentives since the Commerce Centre is located in the town limits.

While the county's incentive package is a one-time deal, the town's incentive payments are spread over a five-year period. Under the agreement, the town will pay Baseline \$10,500 the first year of the agreement, 80 percent of that amount the second year, 60 percent the third year, 40 percent the fourth year, and 20 percent the fifth year.

**The total incentive package** from Hertford is worth \$31,500. To receive the full benefit, Baseline must pay taxes on the facility for 10 years.

Vann Rogerson, president/CEO of the Northeast North Carolina Economic Development Commission, said infrastructure improvements are making the region a lot more attractive for distribution and logistic companies like FedEx.

"Our roadways are finally becoming functional for transporting and distributing goods, and this will enable us to continue to diversify the economy and expand the capacity for new jobs," he said.

A.R. Chesson will construct the facility.

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