

# The Northeast Vision

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- *Pilot Extraction Facility*
- *New and Expanding Business Announcements*
- *Trade Shows and Marketing*
- *Members Recognized for Safety*

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## Pilot Extraction Facility Becoming a Reality

In 2008 RTI recommended in an agricultural study that the area build upon the research assets of the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center in Plymouth, expand the opportunities for functional foods and value-added crops in the area, and build a pilot-scale botanical extraction facility for testing and developing specialty crops. This initiative will serve to attract agricultural and food processing companies to locate to the region.

North Carolina's Northeast Commission has been working with the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center, university researchers, industry leaders, the NC Biotechnology Center, economic developers, and others to bring the pilot-scale botanical extraction facility to reality and reach the goal of developing the region into the center for agricultural plant

biotechnology. Two recent grants support the next phase of the project.

A Regional Development Grant (RDG) from the NC Biotechnology Center in the amount of \$61,333 and a second grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 will pay for the architectural and engineering preliminary designs and location analysis for the extraction facility. This also includes travel to Canada, Texas, and across the state of North Carolina to collect information, and it includes the preparation of design drawings for the facility.

"Agricultural biotechnology holds tremendous promise for improving the economic health and quality of life for people in rural North Carolina," said E. Norris Tolson, President and CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. "Value-



*Pictured here are Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of the NC's Northeast Commission; Andy Lawrence, Centrepont Architecture; David Peele, President of Avoca, Inc.; and Joe Landino of the Blackland Farm Managers Association*

added, niche-market and specialty crops represent a great opportunity in this sector, and the Northeast extraction facility is key to seizing that opportunity."

## Mitek Adds 29 Jobs in Edenton



Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission and Gene Byrd of the North Carolina Department of Commerce congratulate Mitek on the recent expansion of their manufacturing operation.

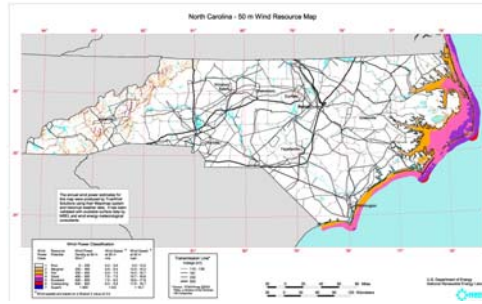
## Marco Moves to Gates County



Gates County's new Chamber of Commerce got off to a great start with the announcement that Marco Company would be opening a distribution warehouse in Gatesville. The company was looking for a location that can service the east coast.



**Groundbreaking at the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park  
May 2009**



This map shows the wind energy potential across the state of NC. The coastal areas house the most potential for wind sources of energy. Source: US Dept of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

## Marine Sites Available

Currently there are ten waterfront sites available for commercial development within the region. These sites can be found at the following website location.

<http://www.ncnortheast.info/BuildingsSites/default.htm>

Pictured below, Dr. Willie Gilchrist, Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University and Lynne Bunch, President of College of the Albemarle; Dan Gerlach, President of the Golden LEAF Foundation; and Dale Carroll, Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Commerce joined together with Elizabeth City to celebrate the completion of the infrastructure for the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park. ECSU and COA will be involved in training employees for the aircraft and air services industries.



## Trade Shows and Marketing Events



**Biotechnology International Conference and Trade Show**  
in Atlanta, May 2009  
Ray White, Anita Johnson, David Peoples



**American Wind Energy Association Trade Show**  
in Chicago, May 2009  
Ray White, Peter Bishop



North Carolina's Northeast Commission markets the region at worldwide trade shows and events. We leverage money and time by attending trade shows that match our industry clusters. These marketing events keep us on the cutting edge of new trends and technologies and provide direct contact with companies interested in locating into the region.

Visit [www.visitncne.com](http://www.visitncne.com) to plan your family vacation to NC's Northeast!



## Hub and Spoke Group Tourism Marketing Moving Forward

North Carolina's Northeast Region continues to market the area for group tourism using a Hub and Spoke marketing concept where the larger towns of Manteo, Roanoke Rapids, Washington, and Elizabeth City are places where large groups can stay and eat while taking day trips into the smaller towns. This provides opportunities for the area towns to work together in marketing each others' venues and encourages

traffic into the smaller towns that are often enveloped in Revolutionary War history, Civil War battlefields, historic homes, candlelight tours, and historic museums. The group tour itineraries can be found on the regional tourism website [www.visitncne.com](http://www.visitncne.com).

A recent grant from the NC Rural Center provided funding for the website and for the creation of new group tour marketing

materials. The funds also provided a marketing trip for two regional tourism professionals to attend Travel South. A trade show for group tour operators focusing on the southern United States.

Hub and Spoke marketing is just one of many ways we join together to market tourism for the region. Visit [www.vistncne.com](http://www.vistncne.com) to learn more about places to see and visit.



Nancy Nicholls, Sara Phelps, and Kay Thomas at the NC Governor's Conference on Tourism

## NC's Northeast Commission Board Tours NCCAR Site

The North Carolina's Northeast Board of Commissioners and developers from North Carolina Department of Commerce traveled to Northampton County on April 15, 2009 and toured the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) to learn more about the facility and to see the progress.

At the time, PLT Construction was a few weeks away from finishing the ground moving at the site, and the first building construction was in process. Board members commented on the large amount of work that is being accomplished at the site.

NCCAR officials expect the NCCAR facility to open in the fall of 2009.



## MITI Chooses Plymouth



NC Representative Tim Spear spoke in Washington County at the recent announcement of Micro Invasive Technology, Inc's decision to open their new medical device manufacturing facility in Plymouth, NC.

**Sarah Jackson**, Finance Officer, completed the NC Rural Economic Development Institute Course sponsored by the NC Rural Center. The institute offers an opportunity for leaders in business, government, economic development, civic groups and grassroots organizations to broaden their understanding of rural community and economic development and to hone their personal leadership skills. Participants attend three sessions over the course of three months. NC Senator Dan Blue attended the closing ceremony and commended the 32 graduates on their commitment to leadership in NC.

***"The Pilot Extraction Facility can attract new companies to the region."***  
**- Vann Rogerson, President/CEO, NC's Northeast Commission**

## Discover the Difference

**North Carolina's Northeast Commission is the regional economic development organization for the northeast corner of North Carolina. Situated just south of the metropolis of Hampton Roads, Virginia, the Northeast Region of North Carolina is the halfway point between Jacksonville, FL and Boston. Call us or visit our website to learn more.**

To subscribe to this newsletter, contact us at:

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website: [www.visitncne.com](http://www.visitncne.com)

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[Twitter.com/ncnortheast](https://twitter.com/ncnortheast)

## Committee of 1000 Members Receive Awards

Congratulations to Zack Mixon, Design/Build Projects Coordinator, and Caroline Copeland, Designer of A.R. Chesson for obtaining their LEED Accredited Professional (AP) certification and credentials to design and

promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. AR Chesson also received the NC Gold Award for Safety.

We are also pleased to join in

celebrating with Metal Tech who received their NC Star Safety designation this year for two of their work groups. We also congratulate Nucor Steel—Hertford County for the renewal of their NC Star Safety certification.



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