

MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**
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Retail Merchandiser Locates Distribution Facility in Gates County

Texas company plans to benefit from a Gatesville location with easy access to east coast markets

Edenton - The Gates County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that The Marco Company out of Fort Worth, Texas is locating a new distribution site in Gatesville. Initially, the company will employ up to five people in its warehouse, assembly, and distribution facility.

The relocation is expected to begin within the next few weeks as east coast distribution is diverted to the Gatesville location. "We chose the Gatesville location because it offers an excellent location near a major port which will give us the opportunity to provide better access and affordability for our east coast customers. We also think that Gatesville is a great community with a solid foundation in which to grow our business," stated Steve Mitchell, Eastern Region Operations Manager for The Marco Company. The company sells and distributes merchandising solutions for the retail industry including specialty shelving and fixtures that are used to display food and other merchandise in grocery and department stores.

The company will rent warehouse space from Paul Askew of Gates County Farm Service. "We look forward to The Marco Company's move into Gates County," stated Toby Chappell, Gates County Manager. "This county has well-skilled people, and many of them drive to Virginia for work. If we can continue to build our business base in Gates County, then we can also build our retail, office, and medical space. Gates County can grow while maintaining the charm and quality of life that comes with a small-town way of life."

Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission stated, "The Marco Company's decision to locate into North Carolina's Northeast region during tough economic times shows that the ease of doing business in the northeast region is attractive to many companies. As we work to diversify the economy and increase the capacity for new jobs, we will continue to help new companies locate into the region."

About The Marco Company:

The Marco Company was started in 1984 by Darrell and David Cooper, who had a vision of creating a company that would provide innovative merchandising solutions for the retail industry. Within four years, the company had grown to 33 employees and occupied over 10,000 square feet of manufacturing space. As we celebrate over 2 decades in business, The Marco Company

growth now includes over 500 employees and 1,000,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space. Marco remains family-owned and operated, and continues to fulfill the vision of the Cooper brothers by proudly serving the retail industry with innovative merchandising solutions. We are grateful for the dreams, hard work, and perseverance of Darrell (1937-1996) & Martha Cooper and David & Lois Ann Cooper. Their devotion is what has helped make MARCO one of the largest manufacturers of display products in the United States. For additional information visit www.marcofw.com

About North Carolina's Northeast Commission:

North Carolina's Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. 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 North Carolina's Northeast Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com.

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