

# RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Electro Energy, Inc.

Alachua County, Fla.  
Manufacturer of batteries  
for defense, industrial and  
commercial applications  
\$45 million capital investment  
300 new jobs

## EPSI

Florence County, S.C.  
Manufacturer of adhesive materials  
\$1 million capital investment  
20 jobs

## Formed Fiber

Sumter County, S.C.  
Nonwoven textiles manufacturer  
\$2.2 million capital investment  
40 jobs

## Funder America

Highlands County, Fla.  
Laminate wood manufacturer  
\$8.5 million capital investment  
40 jobs

## Community Focus: Person County, North Carolina

### Technology and training build new economy

Sitting within a stone's throw of Research Triangle Park, Person County offers access to both the oldest and newest facets of North Carolina's economy. "We're transitioning our economy – moving away from tobacco farming and low-end manufacturing into automotive components and advanced textiles," said Glen Newsome, executive director of the Person County Economic Development Commission.

While the remnants of its 19th-century textile mills now lure tourists, Person County's rich legacy in textile production now has a 21st-century face as Spuntech Industries, an Israeli maker of nonwoven fabrics, recently opened a \$40 million production site in Roxboro. It's the company's first plant outside of Israel. The choice of Person County came after an exhaustive search of sites around the eastern United States. "The company is very satisfied with the

move," according to Gary Becker, general manager at Spuntech's Roxboro plant, which will ultimately employ 60 workers. He cites the area's strong workforce and credits local leaders, such as Newsome, who displayed an eagerness to see the firm launch its new operations as quickly as possible.

Spuntech employees are being trained on technology-intensive production methods through Piedmont Community College's (PCC) customized workforce training program. Though this marks the first instance in which the college is working with a nonwoven textile maker, or a company from Israel, the training is standard practice when readying local workers for employment opportunities that are new to the county, according to Dr. James Owen, president of PCC. "Spuntech is very exacting in their workforce standards," Owen said. "But whatever a new or existing industry needs from us, we just do it."

Owen also expects PCC to prepare Person County residents for jobs at BPB America, a leading global maker of wall and ceiling materials. In early 2004, the company selected Roxboro as the home of its new \$100 million gypsum wallboard plant, which will bring about 200 new jobs. BPB's plans include a unique partnership with Progress Energy to provide synthetic gypsum from the emissions-reduction control systems at an adjacent coal-fired power plant. The gypsum will serve as raw materials for wallboard. "It's a win-win for our economy and the environment," Newsome says. BPB is set to commence construction on its Roxboro site this summer, with completion anticipated in 2007.



*Spuntech Industries recently opened its \$40 million nonwoven textile facility in Roxboro, N.C.*

# RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## George Foods, Inc.

Robeson County, N.C.  
Food processing operation  
\$1.5 million capital investment  
60 jobs

## Good Life Broadcasting

Orange County, Fla.  
Television broadcasting operation  
\$5.1 million capital investment

## Lance

Taylor County, Fla.  
Snack food manufacturer  
\$7.7 million capital investment  
50 jobs

## Lowe's

Person County, N.C.  
Home improvement super store  
\$10 million capital investment  
120 jobs

## Person County Highlights

### Location

- Thirty-minute drive from Research Triangle Park in the upper rim of North Carolina's Piedmont Crescent.
- Total land area covers 392 square miles.
- A three-hour drive west to the Blue Ridge Mountains or east to Atlantic beaches; also convenient to the Piedmont Triad, Raleigh and Pinehurst.

### Workforce

- Population (2005, est.) = 37,344
- Labor force (April 2006) = 19,207
- Unemployment rate (April 2006) = 5%

### Transportation

- U.S. Highways 501 and 158; Interstates 85 and 40 nearby.
- A 45-minute drive to Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU). Person County Airport (TDF), located six miles south of Roxboro, has an asphalt runway of 5,700 feet x 100 feet.
- Industrial rail service via Norfolk Southern Corporation.

### Education

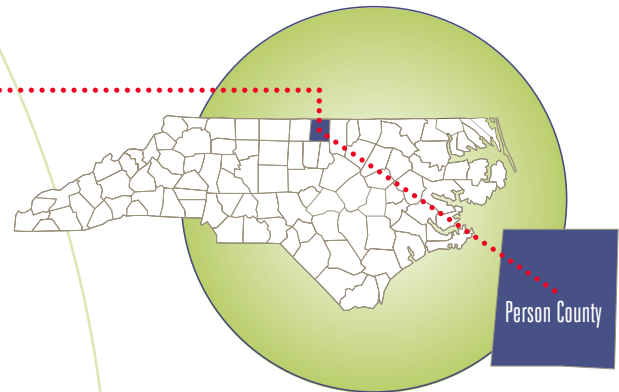
- Piedmont Community College (PCC) offers students 35 vocational, technical and academic (i.e., college transfer) programs. Firms arriving in the county or undergoing expansion or technology upgrades may tap PCC's free, customized workforce training.
- Within one hour's drive to Duke University, Elon University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Person County Public School System serves nearly 6,000 students via 12 elementary, secondary and alternative schools and centers. Over 90 percent of the system's graduates continue their education after high school.

### Major Manufacturers

- AlSCO Metals Corporation
- DWI Holdings, Inc.
- Eaton Corporation
- Georgia Pacific Corporation
- GKN Automotive
- Liggett Vector Brands, Inc.
- Louisiana Pacific Corporation
- North American Aerodynamics
- The Loxscreen Co., Inc.

### Livability

- Temperate, four-season climate enables outdoor recreation throughout the year, including camping and water sports at 2,800-acre Mayo Lake and 3,750-acre Hyco Lake.
- Active local calendar of performing arts and cultural events includes "Arts in Person" series sponsored by Person County Arts Council and art education programs organized by the Art Guild of Person County. Person County Museum of History displays relics of the county's social and economic heritage from earliest times.
- Spectator sporting events nearby include ACC athletics, NHL hockey, minor league baseball and professional-class equestrian competition.



Sources: N.C. Department of Commerce; Research Triangle Regional Partnership; N.C. Employment Security Commission; Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce.