

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

January 2021

NC Named *Business Facilities*' 2020 State of the Year

Business Facilities Magazine has named North Carolina its 2020 State of the Year, putting North Carolina at the top of another national ranking of great states in which to do business. This follows on the heels of a similar ranking by Site Selection Magazine last November, and consistent top five rankings by other publications. In the [article announcing the ranking](#), *BF*'s editor in chief Jack Rogers stated that "North Carolina is leveraging its advantages—including a prime logistics location, a steadily expanding skilled workforce and impressive higher education resources—to seal the deal on one big project after another." The criteria used by *BF* to determine the ranking include: Best Business Climate, Workforce Development, Manufacturing Employment, Foreign Direct Investment, Biotechnology, Installed Solar Power, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Fastest-Growing States (Population).

Business News & Announcements



In our November newsletter we reported that California-based **Ariston Hospitality** has acquired two adjoining properties in High Point to establish an east coast presence for its expanding furniture business. We are pleased to now report that Randolph County has secured a \$90,000 Building Reuse Grant from NC Commerce to assist the company with renovation costs. The effort to secure funding assistance was a joint endeavor between Randolph County government and the City of High Point since the project building at 1581 Prospect Street extends across the Guilford and Randolph county lines. Total investment by Ariston Hospitality over the next two years is expected to exceed \$1 million, including property acquisition and significant upgrades to the previously vacant property. The company will also create at least fifteen new jobs in the next two years *Ariston Hospitality manufactures custom hospitality casegoods and seating in its factories in California and Asia.* www.aristonhospitality.com



A [December 4 article](#) in the Triad Business Journal reported that High Point-based **Ennis-Flint** will be acquired by PPG Industries, an international coatings firm headquartered in Pittsburgh. A December 24 [press release](#) announced that the \$1.15 billion acquisition has been completed. Ennis-Flint operates multiple facilities in the Triad, including an R&D facility in Trinity. *Ennis-Flint manufactures traffic safety markings, from traditional paints and thermoplastics to high-performance formulas and plural components for road and highway striping as well as preformed thermoplastic for transverse markings, heavy-duty intersections, and custom horizontal surface signage.* www.ennisflintamericas.com



In another update from November, the City of Asheboro has secured a \$100,000 Building Reuse Grant to assist Chicago-based **Sedia Systems** with the renovations of its newly-acquired property at 335 Commerce Place in Asheboro. Renovations are now fully underway to transform the facility into a modern, well-lit manufacturing environment. In addition to the state grant, Asheboro and Randolph County offered a total of \$36,532 in local incentives to encourage the company to locate in Asheboro. *Sedia Systems is a leading global manufacturer of lecture hall and auditorium furniture, offering the widest range of fixed seating in the industry for education, corporate, healthcare, government, and public assembly markets.* www.sediasystems.com



In a final update from November, we are excited to share that Indorama Ventures, parent company of Asheboro-based **StarPet**, has committed to a \$17.4 million investment in the Asheboro facility to add recycled PET to the company’s product line. The company will renovate existing space, purchase new equipment, and add warehouse space. In December, the City of Asheboro was awarded a \$100,000 Building Reuse Grant from NC Commerce to assist with renovation costs. The city and Randolph County also offered an incentive package to StarPet equivalent to fifty percent of anticipated new tax revenue over a five-year period. Construction activity is under way. *StarPet manufactures PET which is used as raw material in the manufacture of bottles, sheets, films, fibers, filaments, and other specialty products.* <https://www.indoramaventures.com/en/worldwide/781/starpet>

“Most Responsible Companies” Includes Randolph Connections

Newsweek recently [released its list](#) of **America’s Most Responsible Companies 2021**. Three of the companies listed – [The Timken Company](#) (#115), [Graphic Packaging](#) (#208), and [Parker Hannifin](#) (#327) – operate production facilities in Randolph County. (Interestingly, all three of the local operations are in Randleman.) Another listed company – Waste Management (#348) – is a Partnership member of the EDC and holds a contract with Randolph County government to operate the Great Oak Landfill. Congratulations to each of these companies for this recognition!

Randolph EDC News

On December 10 the EDC hosted a virtual **Randolph Industrial Council** meeting which focused on attracting, engaging, and retaining Millennial and Gen Z employees in a manufacturing environment. Asheboro’s own Dr. Jonathan Thill, co-founder of VentureAsheboro, served as presenter. RIC meetings are held quarterly and participation meetings is open exclusively to industry leaders in the manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution sectors. Randolph Industrial Council meetings are held quarterly and offer leaders of our industrial facilities a forum for sharing, learning, and networking.

Tigermoth Creative, a Greensboro-based marketing firm, is helping the EDC better promote Randolph County as a great place to work effectively and live fully. Thanks to Tigermoth’s assistance, our messaging is more effective and concise, we have grown our portfolio of professionally-quality images (see samples below), and we now have a series of new marketing collateral pieces [promoting the county as a whole](#) and four different targeted industry sectors: [automotive & aerospace](#), [food & beverage](#), [metals](#), and [plastics](#). The next phase of the project will include updates to our [website](#) to ensure that our messaging is consistent across all media.



EDC Partnership News

The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Through annual dues, our members invest in economic development in Randolph County by supporting marketing, recruitment, existing business and industry services, and industrial product development. Partner members are [listed on the EDC website](#) and included in existing business and industry directories, and they benefit from services and referrals from the EDC.

We are excited to recognize the two newest EDC Partnership members.

- Raleigh-based **Bobbitt Construction** is an experienced general contractor with three offices in the Carolinas. The firm, which focuses on commercial construction, is an EDC Partner at the Bronze (\$250) level. www.bobbitt.com
- **Milestone Computer Solutions** in Asheboro offers a wide variety of IT services (software development, remote management, hardware support, online backup, payment processing, VoIP phone systems) to clients throughout the region. We are pleased to have them on board as a Bronze (\$250) member. www.milestonecomputer.com

We also want to recognize **Schwarz Properties** in Asheboro for increasing their Partnership Level from Gold to Platinum (\$1,500). Schwarz Properties specializes in commercial and residential property management in Virginia and the Carolinas.

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed on the next page. We currently have 111 [private sector members](#) and would welcome new partners. Please direct membership inquiries to Lisa Bennett at 336-626-2233 or lbennett@rcecdc.com.

Diamond (\$2,500)

Technimark

Platinum (\$1,500)

Randolph Electric Membership Corp.
Schwarz Properties

Silver (\$500)

J.H. Batten, Inc.

Bronze (\$250)

Allen Tate Relocation
Asheboro City Schools
AVS Catering, Inc.
Beck and Associates
Braxton Culler, Inc.
Draper Aden Associates
DS Smith Packaging Asheboro
Euliss Propane Company
NC Zoological Society
Ralph's Frame Shop
Randolph Land Development
Trinity Furniture
United Brass Works, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation
176 N. Fayetteville St. | Asheboro, NC 27203
336-626-2233 | www.rcecdc.com
[@Randolph_EDC](#) | facebook.com/RandolphEDC

