

Randolph County Developments

A Publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

January 2023

Sumitomo Landing in Randolph County

Randolph EDC is thrilled to [announce](#) that Texas-based Sumitomo Forestry America has selected Randolph County and the City of Archdale to locate its new manufacturing and distribution facility. The company will build a new 120,000-square-foot facility and employ 129 people at an average wage of \$45,782, exceeding the average county wage of \$40,522. Sumitomo Forestry is a comprehensive housing and wood product corporation that manufactures, trades, and sells timber, lumber, pulpwood, wood chips, and building materials. The parent company, located in Japan, has been in the wood business for over 330 years. Sumitomo Forestry America President Atsushi Iwasaki highlighted what attracted the company to Randolph County stating that the location “offers the ideal conditions for our investment, including infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and a favorable business climate.” We are excited to welcome Sumitomo to Randolph County and look forward to seeing them grow in the heart of North Carolina.



Business News & Announcements



Jowat Corporation recently [announced](#) that it will expand its operations in Archdale. Jowat has purchased the 20,000 square foot building next door, which housed their recently closed competitor Henkel. Expansion into this building will allow Jowat to hire eight more employees and to begin operating on new equipment in the building by early 2024. Jowat located in Randolph County 40 years ago primarily to serve the furniture market with its industrial adhesives. Across the globe, Jowat has more than 1,200 employees and is headquartered in Detmold, Germany. We are thrilled to see our 2022 Outstanding Industry Award winner continuing to expand right here in Randolph County.



Klaussner Home Furnishings and its subsidiary Enso Sleep Systems recently [earned](#) two major industry recognitions. Klaussner earned a first runner-up award in the Reader Ranking Awards from Furniture Today Magazine. Enso Sleep Systems was ranked in the 2023 Top 5 Adjustable Beds list from Best Mattress Online.



MasterBrand, the parent company of Liberty-based Ultracraft Cabinetry, will spin off Fortune Brands and as of December 15, 2022 is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange.



MAS ACME has [found](#) its new CEO in Brad Ballentine. Ballentine joins the company from Fox River Mills where he also served as CEO. Ballentine brings with him over thirty years of textile experience, working with yarn, fabric, and apparel production as well as merchandising and sales. Ballentine has a BSc in Textile Science from Clemson University and an MBA from Texas Christian University.



Randolph County was recently awarded a \$100,000 Building Reuse Grant from the NC Department of Commerce. This grant will support Denton-based **Mid-State Trailers** as it expands its current facility by 26,000 SF. The company expects to invest around \$530,000 in the building expansion and to create 19 new jobs at an average wage of \$46,967.



The City of Asheboro also recently received a Building Reuse Grant from the NC Department of Commerce for an amount \$25,000. Grant funds will be used to support [UpStyled Goods and Salon](#) as it upfits its Historic Downtown Asheboro retail space. UpStyled Goods and Salon is a startup division of Asheboro-based **Trotter Sewing Company** whose mission is, "To eliminate textile waste within our community by repurposing leftover fabrics into our products". While UpStyled Goods works on its retail store, check out their online store [here](#) for various upcycled goods, including totes, koozies, and more.



Technimark, which has its international headquarters in Asheboro, is [expanding](#) its facilities in Ireland to meet growing demand. The plastic injection molding company double the size of its Longford, Ireland plant from 50,000 SF to 100,000 SF, a 26 million Euro investment. This complements existing expansions underway in the United Kingdom, Germany, China, and right here in Randolph County.



EG Medical, located in the Seagrove Area, has completed a rebranding, and is now operating under the name **Atalys**. The company states in its [press release](#), “The company’s new name is derived from, and is pronounced the same way as, the word “catalyst.” It embodies the positive impact and change the company strives to bring to its OEM partners and the patients they serve.”

Industrial Council Meeting Recap

The EDC recently hosted its quarterly Randolph Industrial Council Meeting at Randolph Community College’s Continuing Education Building. We had a wonderful turnout of around 45 industry partners from across Randolph County who were keen to hear about the topic of Workforce. Attendees heard insightful [presentations](#) on workforce trends and recruitment and retention best practices from presenters Gary Graham Jr., President of Graham Personnel Services, and Hillary Walser, HR Manager of Jowat Corp. As we always look to improve our programs, we welcome any feedback or suggestions on future Industrial Council topics.



Gary Graham and Hillary Walser Presenting at the Randolph Industrial Council Meeting

Randolph EDC News

In the ever-changing world of economic development, professional development is key to staying competitive. EDC President Kevin Franklin recently became a part of the first cohort of the [Workforce Development Leadership Initiative](#) at North Carolina State University. The Initiative consists of a six-month program including four courses. Two courses on Workforce Development Policy and Advanced Workforce Development Leadership are required. Participants are then able to select two classes from a list of electives including topics such as Network Management, Data Analysis, Effective Communication, and more. As workforce continues to be a critical topic for our industry partners, we look forward to applying lessons from this program to our workforce development efforts in Randolph County.

Product development efforts continue at the Future I-74 Industrial Center and we'd like to provide a few updates on the site's progress. Sewer design is well under way and the County will close this week on 2.56 acres to build an adjacent sewer pump station. Additionally, the EDC applied for and won two grants to support bringing sewer to the site. Awards for \$1 Million and \$800,000 were won from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the NC Rural Infrastructure Authority's Industrial Development Fund, respectively. The goal is to begin sewer construction in the fall of this year. In addition to progress on infrastructure, the City of Randleman has also recently approved rezoning of the property for industrial development. Once complete, the I-74 Industrial Center will provide much-needed, high-quality product to the County's portfolio of industrial sites.

We want to congratulate Kevin Franklin on his 10-year anniversary with the Randolph County EDC on January 2nd. We cannot thank Kevin enough for his leadership here at the EDC and his tireless efforts on behalf of all of Randolph County. Here's to ten more years!

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](#), included in existing business and industry directories, and they benefit from services and referrals from the EDC.

We greatly appreciate recent **Partnership renewals** by the companies listed below. We currently have 115 [private sector members](#) and would welcome new partners. Please direct membership inquiries to Lisa Bennett at 336-626-2233 or lbennett@rcedc.com.

Platinum (\$1,500)

Schwarz Properties

Gold (\$1,000)

Samet Corporation

Silver (\$500)

J H Batten, Inc

Bronze (\$250)

Asheboro City Schools

AVS Catering, Inc.

Bank OZK

Burge Flower Shop

Costa Sanders

Datamark Graphics

Euliss Propane

General Insulation Co., Inc.

Insurance Associates of the Triad

Milestone Computer Solutions

NC Zoological Society

Pugh Funeral Home

Trinity Furniture, Inc.

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

