



GASTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



The Ideal Location For Your Business In The Charlotte Region

March 15, 2005

Project Announcement

Atkinson International Leases 200,000 Square Feet and Creates 100 Jobs

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission Announces Atkinson International, Inc.

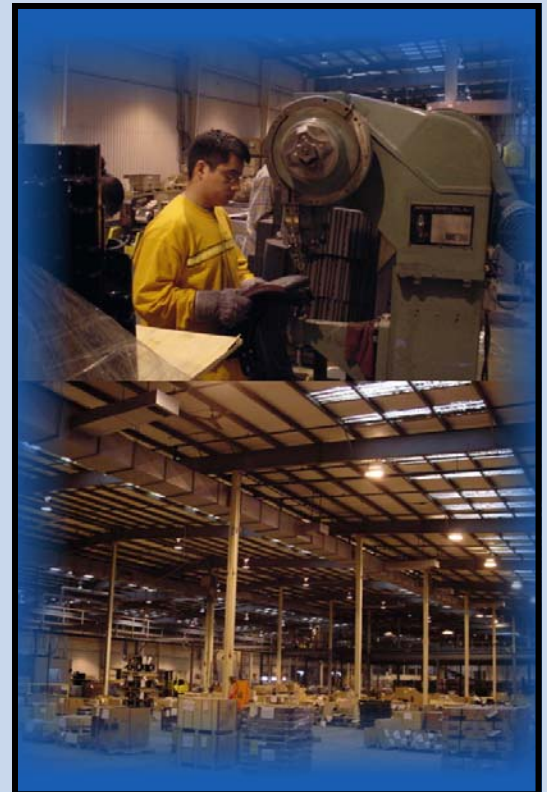
Gastonia, NC - Atkinson International, Inc. has begun operations at 299 Olney Church Road. The Tilbury, Ontario based firm occupies 200,000 square feet in the former John Deere plant. "On behalf of the County Commissioners and the citizens of Gaston County I am pleased to welcome Atkinson International to our community. This announcement is an indication of the ongoing efforts of the County to provide a positive business environment to industry." said County Commission Chairman Tom Keigher.

The newly formed Gastonia facility will employ 40 persons by the end of the first Quarter of 2005 with plans to increase to 100 persons by the middle of 2006. Employment applications are being handled through the North Carolina Employment Security Commission located at 1391 Bessemer City Road.

Atkinson International, Inc. is a subsidiary of the Canadian based Atkinson Re-Work Specialists Ltd. The parent company has been in business for more than 15 years and is major vendor to Arvin Meritor, which is an \$8 billion global supplier of a broad range of integrated systems, modules and components to the motor vehicle industry. Freightliner is a customer of ArvinMeritor and Atkinson International will provide second tier supplier support in the form of riveted highway truck and trailer brake shoes.

The Gastonia plant will function as both a warehouse and production center for Atkinson. Once the launch of the truck and trailer brake riveting is complete and the facility is fully operational, it is estimated that nearly 300,000 highway truck and trailer brake shoes will be riveted per month.

"With this new space we will be able to provide increased value to our largest customer – ArvinMeritor. It is all about meeting your customers' needs and exceeding their expectations." said Claire Atkinson, President of Atkinson International. He further stated that "we would not be able to operate out of this building if it weren't for the tremendous efforts on the part of Marc Bolick of the Gaston County Economic Development Commission. I want to also express my thanks to Don Brown of the NC Employment Security Commission for his assistance."



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