



These FMC Lithium pouch cells, about four inches by four inches, are used to test designs for new lithium-ion batteries.



FMC Lithium Developing Batteries Of The Future



Titan Fabrication
Moves To Gastonia



Röchling Expands Into
Former Ortronics Plant



Retail Data Package
Created By EDC Staff

Also In This Issue

- New personnel at EDC
- Industrial recycler IMACC moves to Gastonia
- Koops Woodworking grows and relocates
- C.A. Foy wins award as Defense supplier

FMC Lithium launches research center at Bessemer City plant to explore new lithium battery applications. Now used for cell phones and computers, the next big thing is lithium batteries for hybrid cars like the Prius above.

High-Tech Manufacturing And Parks Expand In 2008

The 2008 year was one of increased achievement for Gaston County in the world of high-tech manufacturing, research and development, as well as expanded capacity and developed product in our key business parks.



Jim Jones

Highlights of the year include:

- The launch of FMC Lithium's Center for Lithium Energy Advanced Research (CLEAR)

in Bessemer City, where some cutting-edge research into the next generation of automotive battery components will likely be inside our hybrid vehicles and other products in the future

- Completion of DSM Dyneema's Research Center in Stanley, where tests are conducted on military defense, logistics and other applications of the world's strongest fiber (Dyneema)
- Further expansion of Röchling Engineering Plastics into the former Ortronics facility, giving them greater capacity to produce

advanced plastics for a wide range of uses

- A national award for C. A. Foy Machine Company's precision manufacturing expertise, providing a critical part for Lockheed Martin and the C-130 cargo jet

Meanwhile the EDC has substantially expanded our available acreage of fully supported, pregraded sites in the Gastonia Technology Park, South Ridge Business Park, and The Summit at Court Drive. Thanks to the County's Capital Improvement Program, roadway and utility extensions as well as property purchases have added 337 acres of available sites ready to go for new and expanding businesses. As Ed McCallum of McCallum Sweeney told us, you have to be prepared with a viable product for the client.

In November we officially dedicated our Prime Power Park, with the addition of 4 MW of backup electric generator capacity at Gastonia Technology Park, thanks to Electricities of N.C. This means any business in the park can be assured of continuous power even if a power failure occurs in the park's already advanced underground electric supply system.

We are pleased to welcome two talented new staff members to the EDC team – Donna Buff whom you've probably talked to if you've called the EDC, and Malissa Gordon who is taking the place of Diane Bumgardner as our research assistant. Diane has been a key participant in our efforts to provide potential clients with the information, maps and data they need very quickly, and we thank her for her diligent work and upbeat spirit at all times.

Even in these troubling economic times, companies of all sizes are actively seeking locations. Many of these prospects are using site location consultants with whom we have made contact over the last couple of years. At the time of this report, Gaston County remains competitive for a number of advanced manufacturing and life science projects. As firms continue to mitigate risk factors, most are concentrating on sites which are fully served by redundant utilities, such as we offer.

There is no better place to locate a business, so come join us!

—Jim Jones
Chairman of the Board

Buff And Gordon Join EDC Staff, Bumgardner Retires

The Gaston County EDC attracted two new staff members in 2008, as a third planned to retire.



Donna Buff

Donna Buff was named Economic Development Specialist, and Malissa Gordon is the new Research and Marketing Specialist, replacing Diane Bumgardner, who plans to retire in early 2009.

Prior to joining the EDC, Buff was a licensed real estate broker and worked in commercial real estate in Charlotte as a tenant representative/lease specialist from 1999-2008 with Cherry & Associates, LLC. Previously she had worked as a senior financial associate at Hoechst Celanese Ticona Division, and as an overseas agent settlement supervisor for CaroTrans International Freight Company. Buff replaces Angela Scott, who took a position with the

Gaston County Police Department.

Gordon was a Marketing Specialist for Grubb Properties, Inc. in Charlotte from 2001 to 2005 then Program Coordinator for a state-funded program geared towards 5th graders in all North Carolina public schools in 2005-2007. She was Research Specialist for the Gaston County Travel & Tourism Department before transferring to the EDC.



Malissa Gordon



Diane Bumgardner

Bumgardner has been Research Specialist at the EDC since 1999. Previously she was Office Manager for Southern Real Estate 1997-99, Executive Director of a preschool in Dallas 1988-97, and

Head of Operations at MFB Industries 1980-87.

She has also been active as wife of pastor Leonard Bumgardner, who founded and served Fellowship Christian Center in Dallas for nearly 30 years.

Materials she created were chosen by the NC Department of Commerce for use in training others how to respond to Requests for Information/Proposals.

"We are extremely fortunate to have had Diane's personal and professional skill set helping us attract and assist new and expanding companies in Gaston County," said EDC Executive Director Donny Hicks. "Words cannot express our gratitude for her many years of hard work, often under very demanding deadline pressure.

"In the same vein, we also feel equally fortunate to have added Donna and Malissa to our team. Both are very capable, personable, and up to the challenges of running with the EDC team."

Advanced Lithium Research Center Opens In Gaston

Gaston County's role as a center for advanced technology got a major boost in September with the announcement of FMC Lithium's new Center for Lithium Energy Advanced Research (CLEAR) in Bessemer City.

CLEAR is equipped with a state-of-the-art research and development (R&D) dry room, allowing for testing of rechargeable lithium-ion battery components, which are expected to be vital for improved hybrid vehicles and new all-electric vehicles. This new facility will be used for

development and demonstration of FMC Lithium's new lithium battery materials, including its innovative stabilized lithium metal powder (SLMP™).

"FMC Lithium has been an active player in lithium-ion battery material technology ever since lithium-ion batteries emerged in the early 1990s," said George Sandor, FMC Lithium Global Marketing Director. "This new facility demonstrates our strong belief that lithium chemistry will continue to play an important role in portable electronics like cell phones and laptop computers. It also broadens the opportunity for automotive batteries to reduce oil consumption as well as carbon



Marina Yakovleva is Energy Research Group Leader at new FMC Lithium facility

dioxide emissions."

In December the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that FMC Lithium would be one of six cost-shared research project locations for the development and demonstration of alternative vehicle technology projects totaling a DOE investment of up to \$29.3 million over three years.

The Bessemer City plant, which has operated since the 1950s, now makes about 60 different products with numerous applications, employing 235 people.

During the CLEAR research phase, about eight people will work in the new research lab. After two or three years, the

technology should be ready for commercial manufacturing, Sandor said. At that time, he expects a need for 15 to 20 additional employees.

For electric cars that run without gasoline, lithium technology has the only real potential to make batteries light enough and powerful enough to drive long distances without the need to recharge, said Yuan Gao, Technology Development Manager for Energy Products.

"We think it's very revolutionary," Gao said. "This puts Bessemer City on the map for research and development."

Parent organization FMC Corporation is a diversified global chemical company.

DSM Dyneema Testing Facility Begins Operation

From soldiers in Iraq to police in your town, life protection products tested and refined at DSM Dyneema's new \$4.8-million technical center in Stanley are saving lives worldwide. In 2008, construction on the new tech center was almost completed and its global impact expanded.

Dyneema®, "the world's strongest fiber"™, and Dyneema® uni-directional material (UD) are manufactured in Greenville, N.C., as well as Europe – DSM is based in the Netherlands. Since 2003 the company has provided



Helmets and other life protection gear tested at DSM Dyneema

Dyneema® UD to defense contractors who produce Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI) for U.S. military vests, armor panels for HumVees, ballistic protection for cockpit

doors on commercial airliners, and bullet-resistant vests worn by ATF, Homeland Security and FBI personnel, according to Ken Dooley, Senior Vice President of Life Protection Americas for DSM Dyneema.

The Stanley facility has two ballistic test ranges that provide state-of-the-art ballistic testing capabilities and allow for development and testing of products made with Dyneema® UD. "We have all equipment necessary to prototype and develop armor solutions," Dooley said. "Essentially we are helping to save lives."

Röchling Expands Into Gastonia Tech Park

'Juice Alive' Arrives

Röchling Engineering Plastics has expanded again in Gaston County, this time with the purchase of the former Ortronics plant in the Gastonia Technology Park. The company consolidated several operations there and expects to add at least 22 jobs.



The move into the 165,000-square-foot building has cost about \$5 million so far, with an additional \$3 million planned, according to Lew Carter, President. It will allow the company to hire an additional 20-plus personnel and boost Röchling's Gaston workforce to 130 or more.

"These changes will help us become the leading manufacturer of high-performance plastics in the U.S. by boosting efficiency and cutting costs," Carter said.

The building purchase and move will consolidate operations of the Röchling Sustaplast division, previously in Exton, Pa., into Gaston County. "We're pleased this

modern manufacturing building was available a short distance from our existing facility, and that the Gastonia Technology Park has free backup electric generators as an added bonus," Carter said.

"We're delighted that this expansion helps strengthen our local economy," said Gastonia Mayor Jennie Stultz. "Röchling has been a strong corporate partner for over 20 years, and it is exciting to see this company grow and expand in Gastonia. Röchling is well positioned in our Technology Park to show that business is good in Gaston County and to welcome new and expanding industry into the Park".

"Juice Alive," one of the nation's leading providers of both 100 percent juice concentrates and frozen beverage machines, now calls Cherryville home, due to the move of Trident Beverage, Inc.

When the lease rate on Trident's old facility in Mooresville went up, owners John and Patrick Walker decided to buy a larger building in Cherryville that could serve their expanding company.



Trident Beverage has grown rapidly since its beginnings in 2004, and now distributes Juice Alive to schools, restaurants, day cares, bowling alleys, convenience stores and elsewhere nationwide, according to Scott Floyd, General Manager.

"Statewide, our product is sold in about 300 schools," he said.

"We're pleased to continue our growth with this new location in Cherryville," said Patrick Walker, Trident Vice President. "We believe that our success depends on our customer's success, and more and more of them are coming to appreciate the value of our healthy products as a profitable option for all types of foodservice establishments."

Titan Fabrication Moves Ornamental Division Here

Titan Fabrication has moved its ornamental division into a 31,000-square-foot building at 1801 Bradbury Court in Gastonia, investing over \$1 million and creating over 10 new jobs.

"This relocation has allowed many of Titan Fabrication's current employees to enjoy a shorter commute, as they are already residents of Gaston County," said Mrs. J. C. Smith, owner of the company. "The larger plant will allow us to provide a higher level of service to customers in the region and an opportunity to quickly accommodate new clients. We expect to increase employment to 35 total employees companywide



Ornamental gates and stairs made by Titan Fabrication in Gastonia plant

in the near future."

Titan Fabrication's new ornamental division will provide wrought iron and steel ornamental driveway gates and automatic

openers, garden gates, pool gates, fence and ornamental mailboxes. Their products are galvanized and powder coated to prevent rusting, and are stronger than aluminum.

The company's core business is custom fabrication of structural and miscellaneous steel products for commercial buildings. A few of the specialty items it produces are rails, stairs, roof ladders and structural components for industrial and commercial customers. Most of the firm's customers are general contractors and other steel fabricators in the Charlotte Region and the Southeast.

Koops Woodworks Expands And Adds More Jobs

Koops Woodworks has moved into a larger facility in Gastonia and plans to add 10 employees within a year.

The company is spending about \$800,000 to buy and occupy a 20,000-square-foot building at 1109 Ozark Ave. in Gastonia. It relocated from a 10,000-square-foot building in Lowell.

The family-run company "prides itself on providing high quality, cost competitive commercial casework, custom cabinets and reception desks."

Charlotte Koops, Chief Executive, says the company wanted to keep its 10 em-

ployees, despite the move. "The Ozark Avenue plant will enable us to increase the quality of our custom production and grow our business," she says.

The additional space will also allow Koops to better organize the flow of work in its shop and add new staff.



Koops employees use high-tech woodworking equipment

C. A. Foy Wins Award From Lockheed



C. A. Foy has some of the most advanced metalworking equipment in the region; award upper right

Outstanding production of a critical safety part for C-130 transport aircraft in Iraq led to a "Special Recognition Award" from Lockheed Aerospace to C. A. Foy Machine Company, the first such award presented to an American manufacturer.

"These aircraft were on the ground in Iraq awaiting the part for the throttle mechanism as a maintenance required replacement," said a joint press release. "The Foy Machine Company has been increasing involvement with the aerospace industry for the last five years and (was) recognized for quick response and providing a high-quality part for the C-130 transport aircraft."

"We'd been a supplier to Lockheed for several years," explained President Chip Foy. "They contacted us in 2007 with a request to produce this part, which uses cast stainless steel – very hard to get, often with an eight-month delivery. We pushed and got the materials in four months, then

started making and delivering parts within six months – a good five months ahead of schedule.

"This led to a big order, and we are now the only approved vendor for that part. This also bumped up our status as a military supplier, and we just got our first order from the Navy as well."

A number of Lockheed Aerospace staff members including John Carroll, Vice President of the Global Supply Chain, came to Gaston County for the awards ceremony at the plant and observed their capabilities.

C. A. Foy Machine Company began in 1983 as a two-man machine shop in a backyard garage. Today it has a state-of-the-art precision machining plant with 30,000 square feet and 45 employees.

"We are truly committed to quality workmanship," Foy said. "We strive for excellence in our product and dependability for our customers."

IMACC Recycles Here

IMACC Corp., a company which recycles and reconditions plastic containers, has leased a portion of a building at 1236 Industrial Ave., Gastonia, and plans to create four to 10 new jobs in the coming months.

Based in Dalton, Ga., IMACC aims to better serve its customers in the Carolinas with its new location. The 18,000-plus square feet of space includes an investment of less than \$1 million.

The company started as a manufacturer and reconditioner of steel drums, and it now focuses its efforts on reconditioning industrial containers, thereby recycling a wide variety of plastic material. IMACC is one of the nation's largest reconditioners of intermediate bulk containers and a leading supplier of recycled plastic.

At the Gastonia location the company will receive used intermediate bulk containers, poly drums, steel drums and other types of plastic materials from regional industries.

Company President Peter Cutt thanked the Gaston County EDC for its work in helping find the right building.



Plastic containers collected for recycling

Consultants Pleased

The Gaston County EDC has a highly effective site consultant relationship program and many advantages in the competitive site location game, according to Ed McCallum, a principal of McCallum Sweeney Consultants in Greenville, S.C.



Ed McCallum

"Steve Nye (EDC Marketing Director) and his group (other EDC and Gaston County leaders) come to visit us, and most communities don't," McCallum said. "Particularly right now in this unstable economy, we can't wait to start a relationship when the need arises. We have to go with the ones we know."

"This is a business of people," McCallum explained. "Technology just allows us to get to the heart of the matter quicker. If you know somebody and you trust them, they've got a better chance at having their site selected. I know Steve's group, I like them, trust them, believe them. If he tells me something, I can trust him to be correct."

McCallum says that Gaston's many acres of pregraded industrial sites is a big advantage. "You've taken a considerable amount of time out of the schedule. The larger the capital investment, the more important this is. Saving time saves the company money. If you're not ready with your sites, you can't get up to bat, and you're never going to get a chance to swing. Also market opportunities are very cyclical. When you're not there and the opportunity comes, you could miss a lot. Fortunately Gaston County is doing everything right – they just need to keep on doing it."

"We very much appreciate our relationships with McCallum Sweeney and other influential consulting firms across the country," Nye said. "We would not be able to accomplish nearly as much without the ongoing support of the Economic Development Division of the Gaston Regional Chamber. Through private business contributions, they provide about \$150,000 a year to help finance these consultant missions and other marketing activities. This is a team effort – the whole community is involved and benefits."

EDD Support Vital To EDC Marketing

Every second Tuesday of the month, more than a dozen of Gaston County's top leaders meet, hear updates, and make decisions as the Gaston County Economic Development Commission (EDC) Board of Directors. Throughout the month, day and night, they also work in many ways to strengthen Gaston County's economy, community and quality of life.

These efforts are greatly strengthened through a public-private partnership that includes about \$150,000 in annual private support from the Gaston Regional Chamber's Economic Development Division (EDD), whose representatives to the EDC Board were given full voting rights in 2008.

The support of the EDD has enabled the Gaston County EDC to sustain one of the most vigorous marketing programs in the state. Funds provided by the EDD enable the EDC to strengthen key relationships through face-to-face meetings with corporate officials of existing industry and

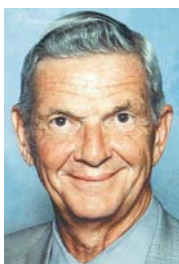


EDD helped fund this Ally Appreciation event

site location consultants. These discussions have led to the County being asked directly to submit proposals for new industrial projects by the consultants.

The EDD support has also funded EDC-organized recruiting missions to New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Chicago; a higher level of client services; increased attendance at tradeshow; sponsorship for special events; groundbreaking and industry announcement luncheon events, and many other activities which promote Gaston County.

EDC Staff Meets With Top Site Consultants



Bob Ady

In December, the "dean" of the site location consulting profession, Bob Ady of Ady International, conducted a presentation to the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Division. He stated that over 65 percent of projects requiring a location or a plant expansion will use a site location consultant.

"The job of the site location consultant is to eliminate sites and communities," Ady said. "A location project will start with a large number of possible locations. The consultant's job is to provide the client company with three to four viable options. Building a professional relationship with the consultant is a critical part of a community's marketing program. It gives the consultant a level of comfort on the community's ability to deliver on the prom-

ises made to the firm seeking to locate."

Four types of firms are involved in the site location process – a location consulting company, the department of an international accounting firm, a division of an industrial/office developer/contractor or a member of a national real estate brokerage business which could possibly involve them with a project.

During the past year the Gaston County EDC has conducted 51 face-to-face meetings with these professionals. Since 2004 over 186 of these type meetings have occurred. Sometimes the meetings will result in Gaston EDC being asked for a response to a request-for-proposal. An example of this occurred when, in October 2004, the EDC conducted a visit to the Austin Consulting Company. In 2005 the EDC provided a response to an RFP and a series of visits occurring from May through June of 2005 culminated with the announcement of Dole Foods' selection of Gaston County in August of 2005.



2008 EDC Annual Report

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Business Parks Upgraded, GTP Gets Power Backup



Above, power generators at GTP; SouthRidge park at left, the Gastonia Technology Park at right

Gastonia Technology Park (GTP), one of Gaston's premier business parks, was significantly upgraded in 2008 with additional roadway, site grading, and "free" power backup generation courtesy of Electricities of NC.

"These improvements make Gastonia Technology Park one of the leading business parks in the Charlotte Region," said EDC Executive Director Donny Hicks. "We can accommodate almost any size business, although our focus is on large, high-tech manufacturing plants that can benefit from our new power backup system."

The Gastonia Technology Parkway was extended by an additional 700 feet, and Progressive Court was constructed off the Parkway, adding 900 linear feet of roadway, sidewalk and a sewer extension. This opens up substantial additional acreage for new development. Most of it is pre-graded, bearing the "Certified Site" designation from the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The park is one of only two in North

Carolina to have backup power generators provided by Electricities, a statewide organization of electricity-providing cities including Gastonia.

This backup capacity is available at no charge to companies in the park, and big Caterpillar diesel generators will fire up in seconds in the case of a power failure. The Prime Power Park currently features 4 MW of back-up power with the ability to expand up to 12 MW.

The EDC was also successful in rezoning a seven-acre parcel north of the Gastonia Technology Parkway for additional business park space.

SouthRidge Business Park, home to Dole Foods, Hunter Douglas and Advanced Drainage Systems, was expanded with the purchase of 55 acres for future industrial development. Following this purchase, the EDC has proceeded with the design of the extension of SouthRidge Parkway through the park, with construction anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2009.



Roadway extension opens up 17 more acres

New Sites Prepared At The Summit

In June 2008, the Gaston County EDC completed Phase III construction activities at Summit Crossing (near Gaston Memorial Hospital) which opened up 17 acres for future medical office development.

The construction work included a 900-foot extension of roadway, sidewalk, street trees, water and sewer extension. Due to the extensive grading required for the roadway, it also allowed 17 acres to be mass graded. This increases the marketability of the property and reduces the risk and time associated with future development.