



The July 2009 Open for Business report highlights projects and related announcements that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of a significant number of existing jobs.

Expansion to bring 100 manufacturing jobs to Roane County

Mustang Survival Manufacturing Inc. marked its 10th anniversary by announcing plans to expand its industrial sewing operation, creating up to 100 jobs in two years. The company plans to have the new facility in Spencer operational with 20 employees by the end of July 2009. The announcement was made during festivities at the manufacturer's plant in Elizabeth, Wirt County. The company will lease the former B.F. Goodrich building from the Roane County Development Authority. Mustang Survival produces aerospace and marine safety and survival equipment. In addition to its Elizabeth plant which employs 84 workers, Mustang Survival has locations in Canada and Bellingham, Washington. Dignitaries attending the event included Gov. Joe Manchin and representatives from West Virginia Development Office, WorkForce West Virginia, Wirt County Development Authority and the Roane County Development Authority.

Reports show bright spots in West Virginia business climate

Despite the current challenging economy worldwide, West Virginia's business climate shows several positive achievements, according to various economic and industry reports.

- West Virginia had the nation's 11th highest U.S. personal income growth rate between fourth quarter 2008 and first quarter 2009.
- West Virginia and Maryland are the only two states with five consecutive quarters of positive personal income growth.
- The state had the sixth highest growth rate in gross domestic product in 2008.
- West Virginia's economy grew at a rate of 2.5 percent in 2008, more than 3.5 times the national growth rate of 0.7 percent.
- The overall cost of living in West Virginia in 2009 is 7 percent lower than the national average cost.
- West Virginia had the nation's third-lowest overall-electricity-cost and second-lowest industrial-electricity-cost in 2008.
- West Virginia is one of only two states that has consistently had positive growth in personal income during 2008 and 2009.

Recycling facility opens in Polymer Technology Park in Wood County

Gov. Joe Manchin was among the dignitaries attending the June opening of PWP Industries recycling plant in Davisville, Wood County. The \$20 million, 20,000-square-foot plant converts post-consumer bottles into food packaging material. The facility will employ 30 workers initially. PWP will ship recycled bottles from its Davisville plant to its 120,000-square-foot building in Mineral Wells where it produces plastic packaging for the food industry.

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WVEDA approves \$584,000 for business loan in Hancock County

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority approved a \$584,000 loan during its July meeting:

- DTC Environmental Services Inc., \$584,000, to purchase and improve property in Newell, Hancock County. DTC began operations in 1986. The expansion loan is projected to enable the barge cleaning and repair company to increase its current roster of 59 employees to 76 within three years.

Gov. Manchin, Sen. Rockefeller, host Biometrics Reception in Washington, D.C.

Gov. Joe Manchin and Sen. Jay Rockefeller hosted a special reception for biometrics, identity management and security executives in Washington, D.C. The event invited out-of-state security and biometrics industry executives to explore business partnerships and opportunities in West Virginia. Approximately 20 West Virginia companies and universities with biometric expertise attended the June 17 function. The reception was co-sponsored by the Discover the REAL West Virginia Foundation, West Virginia Development Office and the I-79 Development Council's West Virginia Biometrics Initiative.

Governor receives first Broadband Innovation Award

The Internet Innovation Alliance presented Gov. Joe Manchin with its inaugural Broadband Innovation Award during its National Broadband Strategy Symposium in Charles Town. The group honored the governor for his efforts to expand broadband availability in West Virginia. In his 2007 State of the State address, Gov. Manchin described broadband access as infrastructure essential to West Virginia's future success and set a goal of statewide broadband access by 2010. While every home may not have broadband by then, the governor said during the symposium, every West Virginia school and community will be able to have access.

Camtech opens office in Putnam County

Camtech Manufacturing Solutions has opened an office in the Eleanor Industrial Park in Putnam County. Camtech supplies manufacturers with custom machine spare parts, tooling, jigs, fixtures and custom machinery manufactured to precision tolerances. For the steel stamping industry, the company specializes in replacement die components, reverse engineering and advanced coatings. Camtech has more than 10 years experience supplying the Japanese automotive industry.

Four new tenants join WVU Business Incubator in Morgantown

Four businesses joined the West Virginia University Business Incubator in Morgantown in June. The businesses are SustainU, a U.S.-based clothing company using domestic labor and recycled fiber to create apparel; Kinetic Star, which orchestrates the development, finance, and operations of energy development projects that create carbon credits and renewable energy; SpokeArt, a company that produces fashionable accessories from recycled bicycle parts; and Deep Sticks Drilling LLC, which stabilizes building foundations.

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Four new tenants join WVU Business Incubator in Morgantown, cont.

The West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WVSBDC) in Morgantown works closely with the WVU Business Incubator and tenants. Including the WVSBDC office, the Incubator currently has 15 physical tenants and nine virtual tenants. For more information on the Business Incubator, visit www.wvubi.com.

American Foundation for the Blind to expand Huntington office, add up to nine jobs

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) announced plans to relocate its finance and other positions from New York to its Huntington office. The move will double the size of the Huntington office to 20 employees. Currently, AFB anticipates filling up to nine positions when the transfer takes place in September and October of this year. The AFB cited reasons for the transfer as the successful performance and greater economy of the Huntington office.

Japanese Ambassador Visits West Virginia

Governor Joe Manchin and the West Virginia Development Office hosted a visit from Ambassador Shinichi Nichimiya, newly appointed Ambassador and Consul General of the Japan's New York consulate. Consuls Miyuki Kuranishi and Masaya Ueda also participated. The June 3-5 visit included meetings with business representatives, government officials and representatives of the state's education community. Ambassador Nichimiya visited the state for the purpose of continuing to build on the strong business and cultural relationships that have been established between Japan and West Virginia.

Taiwan Officials Visit State

Representatives of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office visited West Virginia June 4-5. Chun-fu Chang, Director of the Economic Division, Dr. Grace Lih-Fang Lin and Eric C. H. Wu participated in the visit. The purpose was to strengthen the relationship between Taiwan and West Virginia and to explore the potential for new trade and investment opportunities. The delegation met with representatives of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, Secretary of Commerce Kelley Goes and other business and government leaders.

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