



The October 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.

New wood lab furniture manufacturer adds 20 jobs in Greenbrier County

Mott Manufacturing recently celebrated the opening of its 30,000-square-foot headquarters and manufacturing plant in Greenbrier Valley Airport Industrial Park, Maxwelton. Mott employs 20 workers. The company anticipates adding 10 new jobs — chiefly machine operators and cabinet makers — every year for the next four years for a total of 60 jobs. The plant produces the wood component in laboratory furniture used in hospitals and medical school laboratories across the U.S. and Canada. Mott invested more than \$5 million in the building and equipment. Mott's sister company is based in Ontario, Canada.

Hino supplier to open modification facility in Wood County in November

Fontaine Modifications Company plans to open a truck modification center dedicated to supporting Hino Motor's truck assembly plant in Williamstown. The facility will be located on the former 84 Lumber site across from the Hino plant. The modification company will move Hino support work currently performed in Fontaine's center in Springfield, Ohio, to the new operation in West Virginia. Expected to open in 2009, Fontaine plans to staff the center with a combination of transferred employees and an as-yet-undetermined number of new locally-hired employees. Based in North Carolina, Fontaine modifies medium and heavy-duty commercial trucks for end users.

Two new aviation companies launch in Randolph County

Two new aviation-related companies recently opened at Elkins-Randolph County airport. Elkins Aviation offers pilot training ranging from light sport to airline transport. The company also plans to expand into charter flights. Also at the airport is Advanced Avionics, a firm providing repair services for aircraft navigation and communications systems.

Berkeley County firm takes top spot for Washington Technology Fast 50 for 2009

HMS Technologies ranks first in the Washington Technology Fast 50 for 2009. The firm is an advanced IT systems integrator with clients that include federal agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Defense Department and Department of Agriculture. Headquartered in Martinsburg, the fast-growing corporation achieved a growth rate of 258.6 percent over the last four years with revenues totaling 22.6 million in 2008. HMS incorporated in 2003 as a certified Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business.

Wheeling media production company wins Videography and Telly Awards

The Walkabout Company in Wheeling recently received two 2009 Classic Telly Awards for use of humor and for lighting design for commercial production. The company also won two Videography Awards for commercials produced for the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau. Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards honors outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, film and video productions, and Web commercials, videos and films. The international Videographer Awards competition recognizes excellence in video productions, TV commercials/ news/ programs and new media.

Study shows tourism industry adds billions to state's economy

Visitors to West Virginia contribute billions of dollars to the state's travel and tourism industry, reports a new study. The 2008 study, commissioned by the state Division of Tourism, was conducted by Dean Runyan Associates. Findings from the study include that travel spending in West Virginia generated more than \$4.38 billion in the 2008 calendar year; that travel spending in the state increased by 7.8 percent per year since 2000; and that visitor spending directly supported 44,000 jobs.

Two West Virginia events among ABA 100 Best for 1020

Mountain State Art & Craft Fair and the New River Gorge Bridge Day are among the designated Top 100 Events in North America, according to The American Bus Association. Inclusion in the Top 100 indicates that the events offer excellent value to both tour groups and individual travelers from around the world.

Dedication marks opening of new Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield building

State and local officials were on hand recently to celebrate the opening of the new Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield headquarters in Parkersburg, Wood County. The building took about four years and \$27 million to complete. Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield is West Virginia's largest private insurer.

Development Office Organizes Trade Mission to Brazil

Five manufacturers from a wide range of sectors participated in the West Virginia Trade Mission to Brazil on Sept. 21 – 25. The participating companies were Air Robotics LLC, Charleston; Greenbrier Technical Services Inc, Ronceverte; Leveltek International, Benwood; Power Sonix, Martinsburg; and SMC Electrical, Barboursville. The delegation began its trip in Sao Paulo, with pre-arranged business appointments with potential customers and a networking reception hosted by the U.S. Consul General.

The companies then dispersed to individual business appointments in Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Ribeirao Preto and Rio de Janeiro, according to their industry.

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WVEDA approves \$2 million for two business loans

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority approved loans totaling \$2,004,000 for two companies during its September meeting:

- Fairmont Tool Inc., \$1,620,000, to purchase and install equipment to increase manufacturing capacity at its Marion County facility. The new equipment will enable the manufacturer of machined and fabricated parts to expand and improve its services to its customers. Fairmont Tool currently employs 22 workers.
- Washington Homeopathic Products (WHP), \$384,000, to finance the purchase of a building immediately adjacent to its current facility in the Morgan County Industrial Park in Berkeley Springs. WHP bulk manufactures and sells homeopathic products. The bulk production and mail order operations will move to the new facility. The administrative office, pharmacy and museum remain at the current location in downtown Berkeley Springs. WHP currently employs 34 people.

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