



The November 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 customer service center to create up to 125 jobs in Kanawha County

Mountaineer Gas Center announced plans to open a new customer service call center in Charleston. The center is projected to employ 50 people by January 2010 and expand to 125 by June 2010. The center will be operated by NCO Group Inc., a global provider of business process outsourcing services. Mountaineer provides service to about 226,000 West Virginia customers in 48 of the state's 55 counties.

Marion County firms team up on \$1.25 million weather service project

A team of technology companies have received a contract valued at \$1.25 million over a period of nine months to work on a project for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Weather Service. The project's goal is to develop a way to collect information from vehicles for weather forecasting and prediction. The team members are Global Science Technology Inc. (GST) and ManTech International, both operating in Fairmont, and New York-based Calmar Telematics. GST will build a Mobile Platform Environmental Data observation network to validate that the data can support surface transportation weather applications. Calmar Telematics will integrate the hardware. ManTech International is an innovative technology solutions and technical services provider.

Monongalia County technology firm wins Navy contract for security solution

Morgantown-based Augusta Systems Inc. has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research for the development of an intelligent surveillance system. Built on Augusta System's EdgeFrontier products, the system will integrate multiple types of monitoring technologies to enhance protection of military facilities and assets. EdgeFrontier products provide technology platforms that can be custom tailored to build and manage complex monitoring, control, and automation solutions for security, energy and utility management, asset tracking, building management, and other business functions.

\$150 million wood-fired power plant to generate 40 jobs in Mingo County

American Clean Energy announced plans to build a \$150 million wood-fired power plant in Harless Wood Products Industrial Park in Holden, Mingo County. Construction on the 8-megawatt plant is expected to get under way in July 2010 and to generate electricity

2 by the summer of 2011. The company anticipates hiring 50 workers during construction and 40 employees when the plant becomes operational. The West Virginia Economic Development Authority approved a resolution that will allow American Clean Energy to issue up to \$100 million in tax-free bonds to construct the facility.

WVEDA approves \$442,350 loan for Raleigh County business

During its October meeting, the West Virginia Economic Development Authority approved a loan for a business in Raleigh County:

- Bolt Properties LLC, \$442,350, to finance land, equipment and building to be leased to Cogar Manufacturing near Beckley. Cogar is a manufacturer and distributor of feeder-breakers, reclaim feeders and bins, crushers, man-trip vehicles and related repair parts. Cogar serves the underground coal, potash, salt and limestone mining industries. Cogar expects its current total of 12 employees to increase up to 30 in the next three years.

West Virginia businesses travel to China for mine equipment show

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) is leading a trade mission to Beijing, China. The group will exhibit at the China Coal & Mining Exhibition, Oct. 27-30. Held every other year, the show is one of the world's largest exhibitions of products and services for the coal, mining and related engineering industries. Firms exhibiting with the WVDO are ChemBio Shelter Inc., Beaver; ConveyWeigh LLC., Dunbar; Eastern Mining & Industrial Supply, Chapmanville; Lifepod International LLC., Midway; Petitto Mine Equipment Inc., Morgantown; Phillips Machine Service Inc., Beckley; Preiser Scientific, Saint Albans; and Tabor Machine Company, Princeton. Companies traveling with the WVDO but exhibiting on their own are Carbonoks LLC., Poca; Guyan International Inc., Barboursville; J.H. Fletcher & Co., Huntington; Kanawha Scales and Systems Inc., Poca; and Mining Controls Inc., Beckley.

Toyota to produce RAV4 engines in Putnam County

Toyota Motor Corp. announced plans to produce engines for its RAV4 sport utility vehicles at its plant in Buffalo, W.Va. The plant anticipates producing about 2,000 six-cylinder engines a month for the SUV. The West Virginia plant also produces four-cylinder engines for the Toyota Corolla and Matrix and six-cylinder engines for the Highlander, Sienna and Lexus RX-350.

WVU receives \$1.7 million grant for environmental research center

West Virginia University's Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences in Morgantown has received a \$1.7 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The grant will be used to establish an Environmental Research Center to help formulate policy on economic development and environmental protection. The center's efforts will focus on the mid-Atlantic region from southern Virginia to southern New York.

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APUS breaks ground for new academic center in Jefferson County

American Public University System (APUS) in Charles Town is expanding. The online university recently broke ground for a new 45,000-square-foot academic center. Located on a brownfield — an abandoned or underused former industrial site — the center is designed to be energy efficient and constructed for LEED-certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). APUS is a regionally and nationally accredited online institution of higher learning operating through two universities: American Military University and American Public University, serving more than 53,000 adult learners worldwide.

West Virginia bioscience firms create new industry association

The state's bioscience firms have formed the BioScience Association of West Virginia. The group of biotech companies and research organizations will be an affiliate of the National Biotechnology Industry Association. The organization will exchange ideas, develop new business relationships and seek economic development opportunities for biosciences in West Virginia. The biosciences industry employs an estimated 6,900 people in West Virginia. The group's Web site is www.biowv.org.

Study reports plastics industry contributes \$2 billion to state's economy

The plastics industry accounts for more than 22,630 jobs and \$2.2 billion in economic activity, according to a 2009 study by the Center for Business and Economic Research at Marshall University. The state's plastics firms include plastics materials and resins; chemical additives; final and intermediate plastics and polymer products; and services such as compounding and recycling. The study was commissioned by the state Polymer Alliance Zone.

Morgantown ranks among best places to launch a small business

CNN Money named Morgantown as number seven among small metro areas on its list of best places to launch a small business. The listing cited Morgantown's combination of city convenience and small town appeal, West Virginia University's Business Incubator, abundant outdoor leisure activities and proximity to Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C.

Main Street Point Pleasant wins 2009 Heritage Tourism Award

Main Street Point Pleasant was recently awarded the 2009 Heritage Tourism Award by the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia. The award is presented to an organization for a combined program that includes historic buildings, historic homes and restoration and preservation of history and culture. Main Street Point Pleasant projects include Riverfront Park, historic floodwall murals, Krodel Park holiday light show and the revitalization of the downtown area.

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