

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Releases May Edge Business Report

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin today released the West Virginia Edge Business Report, formerly known as the "Open for Business" report. The report documents the state's economic progress. The May 2012 report highlights projects and related announcements from businesses both large and small that will assist with the creation of new jobs and the preservation of existing jobs.

Gestamp to create hundreds of jobs in Kanawha County stamping plant

Gestamp West Virginia plans to invest a minimum of \$100 million in the former South Charleston stamping plant and create 400 to 700 jobs. Gestamp is an international group dedicated to the design, development and manufacture of metal components and structural systems for the automotive industry. The plant will be a primary supplier for Honda and Ford. The successful effort to bring the venture to West Virginia was a collaborative effort between Gestamp, Park Corporation (owner of the stamping plant site), the city of South Charleston (Kanawha County) and the state of West Virginia. To apply, job seekers should register on the WorkForce West Virginia website workforcewv.org and enter the job titles of Production Worker and Team Assembler as their preferences.



Ray Park, Chairman of the Park Corporation and Governor Earl Ray Tomblin tour the former South Charleston Stamping and Manufacturing Plant.

Simonton Windows to add 160 new jobs in West Virginia

Simonton Windows is hiring 160 new workers for full-time positions at its West Virginia facilities. The window manufacturer lists openings for production operators, primarily in glass, glazing, vinyl and loading operations in Ritchie County. In Pleasants County, Simonton's vinyl extrusion facility, SimEx, has openings for extrusion machine operators. Company officials attribute this job growth in part to the launch of its new Asure™ line of energy-efficient replacement windows and patio doors. For more information or to apply, contact United Talent (800-588-1594) or Kelly Services (304-295-0205) in the Clarksburg area; or PSA (866-562-7482) or Adecco (304-422-0288) in the Parkersburg area.

Charleston technology company recognized in Gartner's "Magic Quadrant"

Global AlertLink has been named among the most competitive Emergency/Mass Notification Services (EMNS) vendors in the U.S. The Charleston-based company received the recognition from Gartner, a leading information technology research and advisory firm. Gartner included Global AlertLink in its EMNS "Magic Quadrant," based on an assessment of a system's ability to execute as well as the completeness of its vision. Global AlertLink provides emergency notification, business continuity and crisis management services.

State launches new *Edge* magazine to promote business in West Virginia



West Virginia businesses have a new platform to showcase their talents and capabilities. The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) created the magazine West Virginia Edge to recruit new companies and promote the state's businesses, advantages and success stories. The premiere issue is being mailed to 30,000 readers and is available online at www.wvcommerce.org/EDGE. Subscribers include executives in small businesses up to Fortune 1,000, state business development agencies such as Small Business Development Centers, state and local government officials, West Virginia economic development agencies, and the state's trade associations. The state's monthly business report, formerly known as Open for Business, now sports a new name - Edge Business Report -and logo to complement the new West Virginia Edge magazine.

Report gives high marks to West Virginia's pre-K access, commitment

A national landmark report recognizes West Virginia for its commitment to pre-kindergarten education. West Virginia ranks among the top five states for access to pre-kindergarten in "The State of Preschool 2011: State Preschool Yearbook," recently issued by the nonpartisan National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at

Rutgers University. West Virginia enrolled 58 percent of all 4-year-olds during 2010-2011. The state's goal is universal access by 2012-2013. NIEER Director Steve Barnett said that although many states are faltering in their efforts to deliver high-quality preschool education, West Virginia "has become a national beacon for what is possible in state pre-K even in difficult financial times."

Webster County celebrates completion of water project

A "valve-turning" ceremony marked the completion of a project to bring public water to an estimated 162 customers near the community of Diana in Webster County. The event was attended by representatives of the Webster County Economic Development Authority, Webster County Commission and West Virginia American Water Company and local citizens. The project was supported with funding from a Small Cities Block Grant from the West Virginia Development Office's Community Development, West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) grant and loan and contributions from West Virginia American Water and the Webster County Commission.

WVEDA approves \$1.7 million loans for three businesses

The West Virginia Economic Development Authority (WVEDA) approved new loans for business during its April 2012 meeting:

- **SMC Electrical Products**, \$509,000, to finance equipment. Huntington-based SMC designs and manufactures electrical products for a variety of industries. The Cabell County firm currently employs 121 workers.
- **Fairmont Tool Inc.**, \$800,000, to purchase and install equipment to increase manufacturing capability at its Marion County facility. Fairmont Tool, a manufacturer of machined and fabricated parts, currently has 46 employees.
- **Yellowstar Materials**, \$436,500, to finance a used batch plant facility near Millwood in Jackson County. A new business, Yellowstar is being formed to operate an asphalt plant to supply hot mix asphalt and winter-grade cold mix patching products. The new firm anticipates creating six jobs after three years.

In addition, WVEDA approved a \$9.9 million capital lease loan for the purchase of new equipment for an expansion by Allevard Sogefi USA in Prichard. WVEDA will purchase and own the equipment and lease it back to the company. In April, Allevard Sogefi announced plans to expand its capabilities in Wayne County and add up to 45 jobs by the end of the year.

WVDO conducts active 2012 trade show schedule to promote state industries

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) kicked off 2012 with an energetic trade show schedule. The team participated in the following events:

- **Informex**, serving the fine and performance chemical industry, held in New Orleans. Also taking part in the show were WVDO's European office, the Charleston Area Alliance, Chemical Alliance Zone, Putnam County Development Authority and Bayer CropScience.
- **NAPE Expo 2012**, a leading venue for the oil and gas industry, held in Houston, Texas.
- **AFCOM's Data Center World Trade show**, a premier international event for data center and facility managers, held in Las Vegas.
- **Aviation Week's MRO Americas 2012 Conference**, held in Dallas, Texas. In a cooperative effort with the West Virginia Aeronautics Commission and supported by local members of the airport industry, West Virginia officials met with companies in the maintenance, repair and overhaul sector.
- **JEC Composites Show**, held in Paris, France. JEC is a composites industry organization in Europe, dedicated to promoting composite materials internationally.

- **National Plastics Exposition**, with West Virginia's Polymer Alliance Zone. The expo was held in Orlando, Fla.

West Virginia artist honored in *International Metal Design Annual*



Master blacksmith Jeff Fetty is one of seven metal artists to be featured in the 2012 *International Metal Design Annual*. The prestigious annual is a collection of top metal artists and their creations. Fetty is the only American to be featured in the 2012 edition, and only the sixth American to be featured since the *International Metal Design Annual* began publishing in 1999. Fetty works from his studio in his hometown of Spencer in Roane County.

West Virginia zip line named "one of the world's coolest"

The April issue of Travel & Leisure Magazine Online has styled West Virginia's Gravity New River Gorge Zip Lines as one of the "World's Coolest Zip Lines." The open air zip line stretches for a mile and hangs 200 feet above the ground at its highest point. Gravity New River Gorge Zip Lines are part of Adventures on the Gorge.



A rider enjoys a cool thrill on a West Virginia zip line.

You are receiving this from the West Virginia Department of Commerce. The former Open for Business Report was renamed West Virginia Business Edge in May 2012. Previous issues of Open for Business Report can be viewed online at wvopenforbusiness.com.