

THE PROSPECTIVE

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EDA's Core Mission

To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American Regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy

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DRS Power Technology at Putnam Place

On October 20th, 2008, Philadelphia Regional Director Willie Taylor, North Atlantic Area Director Steve Grady, and Massachusetts Economic Development Representative Alan Brigham visited the City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts to discuss that community's economic development efforts with Mayor Lisa Wong and her staff. Included in the visit was a tour of Putnam Place, a former General Electric steam turbine manufacturing facility which closed in 1998 resulting in the loss of 600 jobs. With a \$1 million EDA capacity building investment in 2000, followed by a \$1 million construction investment in 2004, this 300,000 square foot industrial facility was reopened in 2006 as a modern, multi-tenant business and manufacturing center.



Steve Grady, Willie Taylor, Mayor Lisa Wong, Alan Brigham

The largest business in Putnam Place is DRS Power Technology, which designs, manufactures and tests propulsion and power generation turbines, electric drive systems, pumps, fuel cells and other high technology industrial equipment. While DRS-PTI is a major supplier to the U.S. Navy, the company's systems can also be found in a wide variety of commercial and marine applications. The company has approximately 110 employees at the Putnam Place facility, and is expected to continue growing as it expands its manufacturing and testing capacity. Putnam place also provides office and manufacturing space to Foster-Miller, an engineering firm doing work for the Federal Railroad Administration, and mZeal Communications, which is developing communication systems for the U.S. Army.

PRO Welcomes New Staff!

Three university students have recently joined PRO as interns. Karen Hawkins is an MBA student at Seton Hill College in southwestern Pennsylvania and will work with the Administrative Team through January of 2009. Karen currently holds an MA degree in Labor and Industrial Relations and will assist with economic research and the Revolving Loan Fund program. Matthew Gurreri is pursuing a BA degree in Business Administration and Darren Scardelli, a BS in Civil Engineering. Both Matthew and Darren attend Drexel University in Philadelphia and will assist with pre-approval and post-approval grants management until March of 2009. We welcome all.

Rutgers Food Innovation Center Opens Its Doors..

The doors opened Friday October 17, 2008 on an \$8 million, 23,000-square-foot facility meant to move New Jersey farmers closer to the top of the national food production chain. The new headquarters, a processing and research facility for Rutgers University's Food Innovation Center, won't be cooking on all burners until November. But the ingredients for success are in place seven years after the program opened in temporary quarters in Bridgeton, a city that once was the major food-processing site in Cumberland County. The center, especially with its new facility, is intended to counter economic pressures that have been closing in on American farmers in general and New Jersey farmers, in particular, for decades. Center Director H. Louis Cooperhouse noted agriculture, even with those challenges, is worth as much as \$82 billion in annual production to New Jersey. The facility features kitchens, laboratories, cooling and freezing facilities, storage areas and offices, as well as practical guidance on considerations such as pricing, marketing, distribution and other concerns critical to business success. Growers can bring in a crop with an idea for processing it and have the concept put to the test, from cooking methods to packaging to taste testing.



Pictured: Willie Taylor, USEDA PRO Regional Director, addresses attendees

The program, started in 2001 as a way to reinvigorate the region's many food-based industries, has worked with 1,000 farmers, small business owners and food entrepreneurs in providing a variety of business-related services. The client list touches all 21 New Jersey counties, as well as interests from outside the state and even the country. In 2007, the National Business Incubator Association gave the program its Partnership Award as a model for economic development. Construction of the facility was made possible by a \$2 million grant from the Economic Development Administration.

About 300 people attended the two-hour grand opening. The podium lineup included U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-N.J., Rutgers University President Richard L. McCormick, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr, U.S. Economic Development Administration Regional Director, Willie Taylor, and

N.J. Department of Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus.

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center, an economic development program and business incubator of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, has been awarded the USDA-CSREES Partnership Award for Innovative Program Models for "achievement as a model for community and economic development and jobs creation." The award was presented to Lou Cooperhouse, director of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center, and Margaret Brennan, associate director of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, during a Day of Appreciation ceremony held on October 10, 2007 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

Mr. Taylor praised the Center's programs as an innovative solution to stimulating the growth of the food-production cluster in New Jersey.

The investment was the top priority of the South Jersey Economic Development District and had strong support and assistance from Director, Gordon Dahl.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by a spectacular sampling of foods developed by entrepreneurs in the program. Edward Hummel, EDR for New Jersey, said it was a pleasure working on a project that he could really "sink his teeth into."

Federal Funds for Economic Development Planning in the City of Lowell and Surrounding Communities presented to Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

LOWELL, MA – October 21, 2008 – Today, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Representatives from the U.S Economic Development Administration delivered \$50,000 in federal funds to the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), which represents the communities of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough and Westford. With the benefit of the federal funding, NMCOG will create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the city and towns which make up the greater Lowell area.

The completed CEDS will allow the City of Lowell and the surrounding communities to qualify for federal funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), which will be critical to future economic development projects, such as the Hamilton Canal. NMCOG will now work with local governments to develop the five-year economic development plan through a grassroots planning process, which supports private capital investment and job creation in the region.

At this morning's check presentation ceremony, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas said, "I am pleased that this funding is being made available for economic development planning in Lowell and our surrounding communities. I believe strongly that the federal government should act as partner with local cities and towns to advance economic development projects which create jobs and help to improve the quality of life for residents. The completion of the CEDS is an essential step in that process and I am pleased that the Economic Development Administration recognizes the value in providing this necessary funding."

Beverly Woods, the Executive Director of NMCOG said, "The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments values its strong partnership with the Economic Development Administration and appreciates the support of Congresswoman Tsongas in securing this grant. This \$50,000 EDA planning grant will allow NMCOG to prepare a new Five-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Greater Lowell through a "grass-roots" planning process, which will ensure that the region remains eligible for EDA funding programs. In this difficult economic climate, it extremely important that the region have an effective economic development program that focuses on job retention and creation, and encourages private investment throughout the Greater Lowell area."



Pictured: Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, City Manager Bernie Lynch, Vice Mayor Rita Mercier, Willie Taylor (Regional Director, EDA) and Beverly Woods (Executive Director of NMCOG)

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