



SEPTEMBER UPDATE 2009 Volume 3 |  
Issue 9

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NEW INVESTMENT

NEW BUSINESS

**Synergy Feeds, LLC**

**Precision Tanks and Equipment Co.**

COUNTY

Whitley [more info](#)

Noble [more info](#)

EXPANSIONS

**Fleetwood RV**

**Coupled Products**

**C&A Tool**

**Dometic LLC**

**Advantage Thermal Services**

**ICON Exhibits**

COUNTY

Adams [more info](#)

Whitley [more info](#)

Whitley [more info](#)

LaGrange [more info](#)

Noble [more info](#)

Allen [more info](#)

NEWS & UPDATES

BUSINESS NEWS

**Employment Gains in the Region**

Buckhorn's Bluffton plant has recalled most of the 58 people it laid off three months ago. The transfer of work from Buckhorn's plant in Springfield, Mo., means that 50 of the 58 people laid off in early April are now working again. Read More: [Buckhorn](#)

**Region Acquires Defense Contract**

Columbia City-based ERAPSCO has been awarded a contract of more than \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Defense. The contract calls for ERAPSCO to produce sonobuoys for the U.S. Navy which will be used for the detection, classification and localization of adversary submarines. [Read more](#)

**Three Area Companies Named to Fastest Growing List**

Inc. magazine on Wednesday released its list of the 5,000 fast-growing private companies in the U.S with three northeast Indiana companies made the list; Novae Corp., a Markle-based tool manufacturer, ranked 1,035; Riverside Manufacturing, a Fort Wayne-based wire harness maker, ranked 1,928; and Trusted Supply Chain Partners, an Ossian-based custom metal fabricator, placed 3,638. The list was compiled based on percentage revenue growth from 2005 through 2008 and qualified companies were required to be independent, for profit and have 2005 revenue of at least \$200,000 and 2008 revenue of at least \$2 million. [Read More](#)

GOING GREEN

**Electric Car Prototype Built in Wabash**

Indiana's first electric car designed to be affordable for the masses will be built in the world's first electrically lighted city -- Wabash. The car's electric propulsion system is the creative effort of two Indianapolis businessmen who were introduced to Bill Konyha, president and CEO of the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, who in turn introduced them to Norm Benjamin, who in turn introduced them to the world outside Indianapolis. "Our support of this project and our support for entrepreneurs is a continuation of the community's economic history," Konyha said. [Read more](#)

COUNTY UPDATES

ALLEN

AirWorx Construction Equipment & Supply has announced that it will build a 7,500 sf building at 2108 W. Washington Center Road. The Fort Wayne facility will be the company's third Indiana location. [more](#)

Johnson Controls, Inc. recently announced that it will add new equipment to its 8710 Indianapolis Road location. The company, which is a global leader in automotive experience, building efficiency and power solutions, is expected to invest \$4.2 million in the project. [more](#)

ICON Exhibits, which merged with California-based Delphi Productions in March, announced today that it will expand its presence in Fort Wayne. The development will result in the retention of 30 jobs and the potential for nearly 60 new positions. The project could also lead to larger investments in the future. [more](#)

DEKALB

Three local investors have purchased the Fleetwood Homes factory in Garrett, which will now be renamed Adventure Homes. Employment is expected to expand to around 125-150 people by this time next year. [Read More-Purchase](#) [Read More-Reopening](#)

LAGRANGE

Dometic LLC has announced plans for an expansion at its LaGrange, Indiana facility. The project is expected to be completed by 2010 and will create approximately 116 new jobs. This would more than double the current workforce of approximately 100 employees. [more](#)

Congratulations to the LaGrange County Economic

## EDUCATIONAL ACCOLADES

### Wayne Begins Inaugural School Year of New Tech Program

The beginning of the 2009-2010 school year marked more than the mere end of summer break, it also marked the beginning of Wayne High school's New Tech program which will provide a more rigorous and relevant curriculum for students. New Tech is a project-based and technology-driven high school program that seeks to simulate a real-life working environment. Students learn the same subjects as the rest of the Wayne students but they do so through doing projects, not reading textbooks. Students work in groups, give presentations and have more flexibility than in a traditional school setting. Textbooks are not absent from the curriculum, but the students use them more as resources instead of reading chapter after chapter, said Liz Bryan, who oversees New Tech. [Read More](#)

### Indiana Tech Launches Ph.D. Program

Thirty-one Indiana Tech students have begun classes in Indiana Tech's first term of its new doctoral program. The doctorate degree in global leadership is offered through the Fort Wayne university's College of Professional Studies and is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in for-profit and nonprofit organizations, including higher education. It has attracted more than 200 inquiries from potential students since it was announced in February. Interested students hail from around the world, facilitated by the online presence of the program and its curriculum, and most are coming into the program with an MBA or management degree of some kind. [Read More](#)

### Universities Top National Lists

Manchester College and Huntington University have both been recognized for their outstanding academic environments by national publications U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review voted and recognized Manchester College and Huntington University as "Best in the Midwest" academic institutions. This is the seventh consecutive year Manchester has been recognized on the list and the second consecutive year Huntington University has been awarded the honor. Additionally, for the 15th consecutive year, Manchester has been named one of "America's Best Colleges," determined by the U.S. News & World Report in their 2010 America's Best Colleges. The 2010 edition of the ranked list also applauds Manchester with sixth place in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" Midwest rankings.

Read more: [Huntington Univ-Princeton Review](#) [Manchester-Princeton Review](#) [Manchester-U.S. News & World Report](#)

## INCENTIVE SPOTLIGHT

### Advanced Technologies in Indiana

#### 21st Century Research and Technology Fund

The Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund was created to stimulate the process of diversifying the State's economy by developing and commercializing advanced technologies in Indiana. The Fund is an integral element of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Division. [21Fund.org](#)

## BLOG HIGHLIGHT

### "Renewable Energy Attracted to Northeast Indiana"

*"Indiana and green energy seem to have an inevitable attraction to each other. During the summer of 2009 alone, news reports have been inundated with headlines featuring wind energy, green buildings, and sustainable construction to name merely a few efforts occurring across the region..."* [Read Blog](#)

## ▶ READ THE BLOG



LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation which announced that it has received designation from the Internal Revenue Service indicating that the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation is now a nonprofit organization. [more](#)

## NOBLE

Precision Tanks and Equipment Co, an Illinois company, was given the green light to build a new factory in Ligonier and create 14 new jobs. The company will operate out of a new facility in the Ligonier Industrial Park and will produce fiberglass and stainless-steel tanks. Rick Sherk, Executive Director of the Noble County Economic Development Group, and Ligonier Mayor Patty Fisel are credited for helping to bring the new factory to Ligonier. [more](#)

Cromwell, IN will receive \$1 million from the state of Indiana and the federal government later this year to aid in recovery projects stemming from 2008 area natural disasters. Cromwell is one of 21 Indiana communities that will receive special funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant. [more](#)

The Noble County Council unanimously approved an abatement for Advantage Thermal Services to allow the phasing in of property taxes on a building expansion and new equipment. The company sought a 10-year tax abatement on real property valued at \$250,000 and new equipment valued at \$313,000. The work is projected to be complete by early 2010, with at least eight new jobs or as high as 14 new positions. [more](#)

## WABASH

Collaboration between the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, local businessmen and Indianapolis entrepreneurs have resulted in the decision to manufacture Indiana's first affordable car in Wabash, IN. The Bulldog Battery product, quality craftsmanship, and cooperation in Wabash are noted as key motivators for the Indy entrepreneurs' decision to choose Wabash for the production location. [more](#)

## WHITLEY

Oak View Tool recently announced it will create 10 new jobs in Whitley.

announced it will now be a sister company to SGS Tool, the global leader in production of carbide cutting tools. SGS Tool now has sales offices in eight foreign countries and sells to customers in over sixty countries through a network of industrial distributors. The new affiliation with Oak View Tool will further entrench SGS in the medical market with a focus on orthopedics.

Early site work is now underway at the location for Parkview Health's new Whitley hospital campus. "We're on budget and on time," John Meister, chief operating officer of PWH, said of the progress on the new hospital to this point. [more](#)

The Whitley County EDC has hired Sharon Sallot to be manager of Accelerating Innovation, a county-wide business incubation program. The program is now considering applications from startup or growing Whitley County companies. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Whitley County EDC for more information. [more](#)

## MORE INFORMATION



With the help of the Community Research Institute (CRI) and input from our local economic development partners, you now have access to our sales sheets that contain data and information highlighting four of our six industries: [Financial & Insurance Services](#), [Food Processing](#), [Medical Devices](#) and [Transportation and Logistics](#). Dive into the facts and let Northeast Indiana work for you!

[Map Room](#) | [Regional Data Tables](#) | [Demographics](#) | [Sites & Buildings](#)

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