



Jacksonville Bold for 07.05.16

Peter Schorsch

“Jacksonville seen as competition for Raleigh in quest for economic development projects” via [Lauren Ohnesorge of the Jacksonville Business Journal](#) – While General Electric Co.’s headquarters was a “long shot” for Raleigh, the IT division headquarters could have been a good fit, **John Boyd**, [who helps companies scout for locations through his New Jersey-based firm, the Boyd Company] expects the state to aggressively pursue technology projects going forward, as what’s typically the Triangle’s sweet spot, pharma and biotech, is in “consolidating mode these days” ... “(It’s) nothing like the go-go days of the last couple of decades when the Triangle was the location of choice for growing pharma companies relocating out of states like New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts,” he said. Boyd says Atlanta isn’t Raleigh’s chief rival. He says he’s hearing increased interest from clients about Nashville, Tampa, Columbus, Indianapolis and Jacksonville. To him, the “big gorilla” in the room continues to be the contentious House Bill 2, a measure passed earlier this year that has already been blamed for PayPal’s Charlotte jobs pull out and Deutsche Bank’s expansion freeze in the Triangle. But it’s hard to track how that measure might be impacting economic recruitment, as no records have been released showcasing any project losses blamed on the bill in North Carolina.

Breaking — Mercedes to bring 50 more jobs to Jacksonville via Governor’s Office [press release] – Tuesday, **Rick Scott** announced that Mercedes-Benz USA will be relocating an engineering services division from New Jersey to Jacksonville. The company is adding the engineering services division to its Quality Evaluation Center (QEC) in Jacksonville. The 50 jobs will be a mix of employees relocating to Northeast Florida and new hires from the local market. Mercedes-Benz currently employs more than 100 Floridians at the Jacksonville facility ... Scott said, ‘I am proud to announce that Mercedes-Benz USA has chosen Florida over New Jersey as the best place to grow their company and create jobs for Jacksonville families. With no income tax, a low business tax, and a focus on helping businesses succeed, it is clear why more companies are choosing to invest in our state. I look forward to seeing Mercedes-Benz USA’s

continued success in Jacksonville as we continue to work each day to help Florida outcompete other states for new opportunities' ... Lenny Curry said, 'Mercedes-Benz USA's selection of our city is great news for Jacksonville. This further demonstrates that the momentum is with us as our local economy continues to grow, creating highly-skilled jobs and more opportunities for our citizens and their families' ... Greg Anderson, who was council president when the project was approved, said, 'I appreciate the support from my colleagues on the City Council for approving this outstanding deal as Project Grace last month. This is another example of how we can strengthen our economy when local and state leaders are working together with a common goal of growing jobs in our community.'

"Navy contracts for three Northeast Florida companies" via [Jensen Werley of the Jacksonville Business Journal](#) – Orion Solutions LLC and SGS Technologie LLC out of Jacksonville and Lexes Associates Inc. in St. Augustine were included in the deal. The contracts will be solicited by several Navy entities, including Sea Systems Command, Air Systems Command, Military Sealift Command and the Office of Naval Research, among others. The contracts cover 22 functional service areas, such as research and development, simulation support, software engineering and training support. The 600 contracts are added to about 4,500 existing contracts previously awarded under the SeaPort Enhanced acquisition program, where about \$3.9 billion of services will be procured per year. The awards have a three-year performance period.