

# North Brevard Business Review



*A quarterly review of business news in Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and Titusville  
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## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS**

**ACT 2 Technologies**, a firm that manufactures equipment and components used in the reclamation of water, has announced plans to acquire a 3-acre lot in the Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville for the construction of a new manufacturing operation. The company, which originated in Ft. Lauderdale, anticipates a total investment of more \$2 million, with an initial building footprint of 7,500 sq. ft. The project was made possible with assistance from the North Brevard Economic Development Zone.

Using a closed loop remediation method, the company's patented equipment items allow for water purification and water reuse in toilets and irrigation systems, particularly in marine-based environments. ACT 2 products can be found on luxury liners, sea-based oil rigs, and marine observation vessels. The company's wastewater discharge systems have also been used in restroom facilities at U.S. Army bases and installations. For more information on the company, visit [www.act2tech.org](http://www.act2tech.org).

**8K Solutions**, a company that designs and integrates audiovisual systems for amateur and professional sports teams, recently acquired a 26,000 sq. ft. facility on Grissom Parkway in Titusville's Spaceport Commerce Park. The purchase will permit the company to consolidate its administrative, assembly, and warehousing operations in one location, while also providing the company with space to add prototyping shops and demo spaces. The firm, led by local entrepreneur Dan Aton, provides video services for sports teams and coaching staffs, thus helping to improve player skills and preparation for competition. The company, which now employs more than 10 people, has worked with the Orlando Magic, the University of Florida, the U.S. Army, the New York Giants, and the reigning college football champions, the University of Alabama. For more information on this locally-based firm, visit [www.8Ksolutions.com](http://www.8Ksolutions.com).

As recently reported in the [Orlando Business Journal](#), California-based **Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX)** is planning to occupy a 52,000 sq. ft. building at Port Canaveral in North Brevard to service and refurbish elements of its Falcon 9 rockets; the company may develop a second building on an adjacent parcel. The move is the result of SpaceX's current practice of retrieving the rocket boosters on barges at sea, and needing a facility in close proximity to the port to improve the speed and efficiency of re-processing the stages. In July, the company announced that it would build two more landing pads at Cape Canaveral to land three boosters simultaneously from its Falcon 9 Heavy rocket; a launch of the Falcon 9 Heavy may take place before the end of the year.

SpaceX, founded by tech entrepreneur Elon Musk in 2002, is a commercial space company that designs, manufactures, and launches advanced rockets and spacecraft. For more information on the company, visit [www.SpaceX.com](http://www.SpaceX.com).

**Lockheed Martin - Astrotech Space Systems** is nearing the completion of final processing work in its Titusville facility for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) next generation weather satellite, known as the Geostationary Operational Environment Satellite, or “GOES-R.” A launch date at Cape Canaveral for deployment of the satellite is expected in November. The GOES-R is expected to provide higher-resolution images of weather patterns and severe storms five times faster than currently available from existing NOAA orbital systems, which should increase the accuracy and reliability of weather forecasts. The satellite system will also improve hurricane tracking and intensity forecasts, while also increasing thunderstorm and tornado warning lead times.

For more information on GOES-R, and the role of the North Brevard community in the project, go to [www.goes-r.gov](http://www.goes-r.gov).

### **SPOTLIGHT ON: Chemko Technical Services**

In business for more than 40 years, **Chemko Technical Services** in Mims offers fabrication and testing services for a variety of industries, including medical and aerospace. The company, which was founded in 1972, occupies a 14,000 sq. ft. industrial building and a Class 10,000 clean room on site at its location on U.S. Highway 1. The company’s services include hydrostatic, pneumatic, cryogenic, and vacuum testing. The company’s quality system is certified by ISOQAR to AS9100C; they are currently a certified supplier for Boeing, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX, Goodrich Interior Products, and General Dynamics, to name just a few firms. Fabrication services are build-to-print only, and performed with precision tube bending, flaring, and welding. For more information on this North Brevard-based business, visit [www.chemkotech.com](http://www.chemkotech.com).

### **LOCAL CONSTRUCTION SECTOR NEWS**

**David Boland Construction, Inc.**, a general contractor based in downtown Titusville that specializes in federal contract work, has been awarded a \$17 million contract to construct an Army Reserve Center in Dublin, California. The estimated completion date is February of 2018. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the contracting entity. Boland Construction has been in business since 1976, and has done extensive work for NASA, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information on the company, go to [www.dboland.com](http://www.dboland.com).

**Gregori Construction**, a highway and bridge construction company based in western Pennsylvania, recently completed work on a new 11,000 sq. ft. office and warehousing structure on State Road 405 in Titusville. The building will serve as a branch construction office for the company and house a staff of 10 people; the company employs more than 100 construction laborers at various job sites. Founded in 1989, the company primarily services government contracts, and has a history of working with the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, the U.S. Veteran’s Administration, and the U.S. Department of Energy. More information on the company is available at [www.gregori-inc.com](http://www.gregori-inc.com).

**RUSH Construction, Inc.**, is currently erecting a new, three-story medical office building at the **Titus Landing** retail center for health provider **Parrish Medical Center (PMC)**. The approximately 52,000 sq. ft. facility, which could lead to the creation of more than 200 medical and administrative jobs, is expected to be completed by the spring of 2017. RUSH Construction is an employee-owned design/build general contractor and construction management firm that began operations in 1984. The company has won numerous awards for its safety practices at job sites. For more information on RUSH, visit [www.RUSHinc.com](http://www.RUSHinc.com).



*New PMC Building Under Construction at Titus Landing*

## **TIMBER INDUSTRY IMPACT ON NORTH BREVARD**

Although tourism and the space industry are important to the economy of Brevard County, the area is also impacted by an industry that has great importance to the state of Florida – the timber and forestry products sector. According to the Florida Forestry Association, forests cover half of the state’s land area, with most of the timberland situated north of Orlando, for a total of 17.3 million acres. More than 5,000 products are made for timber, items ranging from furniture to pharmaceuticals. And the timber industry is booming; according to a recent article in the Orlando Sentinel, prices for lumber have steadily risen in recent years, as timber mills add employment and expand production.<sup>1</sup> [For information on forests in Florida, visit [www.floridaforest.org](http://www.floridaforest.org).]

Within the North Brevard economy, firms such as **Brevard Lumber Company**, **Brevard Truss**, **Woodgrain Distribution**, **East Coast Lumber** (Cocoa), and **Sunbelt Forest Products** (Rockledge) generate aggregately more than \$50 million in sales, and employ more than 100 people locally.

## **AVAILABLE BUILDING**

**45,000 sq. ft.** office/light industrial building on Grissom Parkway in Titusville, near Space Coast Regional Airport; recently underwent \$1.3 million upgrade. Contains 5 secure data rooms, CAT-6 high speed cabling, fiber optic back-up, 3-phase power, LED lighting, full kitchen/cafeteria, exercise room,

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<sup>1</sup> See: [www.orlandosentinel.com](http://www.orlandosentinel.com).

and hardwood flooring in executive offices. Situated on approximately 2.76 acres, with 200 parking spaces. Entire second floor could be used by another tenant. [Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.] Building available for sale or lease. Listing agent: Michael Gaich, CCIM of Michael Gaich Realty, 321-453-4200. Google “You Tube – 8855 Grissom” for a video tour of building.

### **NASA SPINOFF: Laser Vision Helps Hubble**

When *Space Shuttle Atlantis* (now on permanent display at the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center**) was preparing for its mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope in 2009, NASA requested bids from optics companies to replace the misshapen mirrors on the telescope. **AOA Xinetics**, now a division of major Brevard County employer **Northrup Grumman**, created a tool to detect mirror defects, which it incorporated into a commercial 3-D imaging system. Among its applications is a package-detection device now used by all major shipping and cargo companies – including those accessing Port Canaveral. More information on this product and others can be found at [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com).<sup>2</sup>

### **ABOUT NORTH BREVARD AND THE “ZONE”**

Located in coastal, east central Florida, the region known as North Brevard is an approximately 200-square mile area of Brevard County that includes the communities of Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and the City of Titusville. Bordered by the St. John’s River to the west and the Indian River Lagoon and Atlantic Ocean to the east, the region has a population of more than 145,000. With an economy based upon a diverse mixture of aerospace, manufacturing, healthcare, boating, and tourism, the region is the home to **NASA’s** famed **Kennedy Space Center** and to world-class firms such as **Boeing, Barn Light Electric, Blue Origin, Embraer S.A., VectorWorks, and Gold Tones Musical Instruments**. Information about the region’s “quality of life” is available at [www.greatertitusville.com](http://www.greatertitusville.com).

The **North Brevard Economic Development Zone**, created in July 2011 by the Brevard County (Florida) Board of County Commissioners, is a Special Dependent District under Florida Statutes, Chapters 125 and 189. The Zone was formed with the goal of facilitating job growth and economic development in the northern part of Brevard County following the end of NASA’s Space Shuttle program. In that regard, the Zone seeks to provide assistance to businesses prepared to make a substantial capital investment in the area and create a significant number of new jobs. To view the Zone’s written Economic Development Plan and eligibility criteria for program participation, visit [www.NBEDZ.com](http://www.NBEDZ.com).

**THE NORTH BREVARD BUSINESS REVIEW** is published quarterly by the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. All information provided is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Please address any comments or questions to Troy Post, CECD, CBE, at 321-960-1458, or electronically via [troy.post@brevardcounty.us](mailto:troy.post@brevardcounty.us), or to the campaign staff of the presidential nominee of your choice.



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<sup>2</sup> From the NASA publication, Spinoff 2016.