

North Brevard Business Review



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

Astro Pak Corporation, a leading California-based provider of precision cleaning and passivation services (making products less affected or corroded by environmental factors), recently acquired an existing 44,000 sq. ft. industrial building in Titusville's Spaceport Commerce Park for use as the company's eastern U.S. operations hub. The building, located on a prominent street in the industrial park, had been vacant for four years prior to purchase. According to the company's chief executive officer, Ken Verheyen, the firm intends to spend approximately \$3 million on renovations to the structure. The company also plans to purchase Mims-based **Chemko Technical Services**, to better serve its aerospace clients. The project, which was made possible with site selection assistance from the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) and financial assistance from the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), anticipates creating 17 new jobs over the next few years, with an average annual wage of \$45,000.

Astro Pak began operations in 1959, and services the aerospace and defense industry markets, along with manufacturing clients in the medical device, semiconductor, and bio-pharmaceutical industry sectors. For more information on the company, please visit www.AstroPak.com.

Red Canyon Software, a Colorado-based software engineering firm, has announced plans to purchase a group of historic buildings in downtown Titusville for use by the company as its Florida headquarters. Named for the red canyons of Mars, the software company specializes in software applications used by aerospace and defense industry firms, and has worked on several NASA projects related to its deep space exploration missions. According to company president Barry Hamilton, the company will utilize the structures, one of which is the former Walker Apartments building on U.S. Highway 1 in downtown Titusville, to create a live/work environment for its employees. Hamilton cited downtown's existing complement of stores, restaurants, and parks as amenities that should make downtown living desirable to Red Canyon employees and other tech workers. "We believe Titusville is uniquely positioned to become the Silicon Valley of Space," added Hamilton.

The company has labeled its revitalization efforts the *Launch Now* campaign, which can be viewed at a separate website created by the company, www.LaunchNow.space. The project was made possible with technical assistance from the EDC, and financial assistance from the NBEDZ.

Red Canyon, which was founded in year 2000, anticipates a project cost totaling more than \$4 million, and the creation of 20 new jobs for the North Brevard area, paying an average annual wage of \$55,000. For more information on the firm, including position postings, go to www.RedCanyonSoftware.com

Marketing Holders, a manufacturer of advertising displays and literature holders, has moved into a 9,000 sq. ft. facility in Mims that once housed noted Titusville business **Barn Light Electric** during its early years. Marketing Holders makes a wide range of molded plastic displays, from business card holders to brochure racks. The firm also makes wooden display racks used in grocery stores and retail locations, along with organizational shelving. The firm re-located to Mims to take advantage of a larger space for its operations. The company, which employs around 10 people, distributes products throughout the U.S. For more information on the company, visit www.MarketingHolders.com.

Titusville-based **Rocket Crafters, Inc. (RCI)** recently announced that it would receive a research contract totaling \$540,000 from DARPA (the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) to aid the company in further developing its hybrid rocket engine, a design that RCI touts is safer and less expensive than the liquid or solid chemical engines more prevalent in the industry. The company maintains offices at the Titusville-Cocoa Airport, and utilizes a test facility at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Additional information on RCI can be found at www.RocketCrafters.com.

In late August, **Orbital ATK** made headlines with the launch from Cape Canaveral of its Minotaur IV rocket, which deployed a satellite into low-Earth orbit. The rocket used a decommissioned intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) motor - surplus resources from the Cold War that the company has long championed as a means for delivering cost efficient payloads into space. In related news, it was announced that aerospace giant **Northrop Grumman** (which already has a large presence in Brevard) would acquire Orbital ATK for \$8 billion, thus giving the aerospace leader more capabilities in small satellite deployment. For more information, visit www.NorthropGrumman.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Met-Con in Sharpes

Located near Cocoa in the North Brevard community of Sharpes, **Met-Con, Inc.**, is a leading metal fabricator and erector of structural steel. Established in 1979, the company has fabricated and erected metal work on some of Central Florida's most visible structures, including Universal's "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and Disney's Hollywood Studios "Tower of Terror." Locally, the company has provided structural steel work for the Space Shuttle Atlantis display at NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center, and erected Port Canaveral's observation deck and visitor's center, Exploration Tower.

Met-Con primarily serves clients in the commercial, industrial, aerospace, aviation, and entertainment industry sectors. The company, which occupies more than 100,000 sq. ft. of industrial space on Canaveral Groves Road near U.S. Highway 1, also operates an approximately 15,000 sq. ft. precision machine shop; it employs more than 25 people. The company has received numerous accolades over the years, from companies such as Harris Corporation and United Launch Alliance, and from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, and is a designated veteran-owned small business. Additional information on Met-Con can be found at www.MetConInc.com.

LONG DERELICT BUILDING GETS A FACELIFT

In an indication of better economic times in the northern part of the county, a long neglected and dilapidated commercial structure on Harrison Street in Titusville recently sold, and is currently undergoing a \$2 million renovation for a slightly different use. The structure – long considered one of the city’s biggest eyesores – is now being converted into an 800-seat religious center for the **Grove Church**, which recently acquired the 55,000 sq. ft. building for \$750,000. Loyd Construction is serving as general contractor for the renovation project. The structure was originally built in 1988 for use as a supermarket, but closed in the early 1990s. Once completed, the facility will feature classrooms, a coffee shop, and a section for use as a children’s ministry, according to Pastor Brad Russell. The church hopes to finish the renovation project by spring 2018.

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO FORM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Led by a new member of the Titusville business community, Swiss-based firm **RUAG**, plans are being made in North Brevard to establish a European-style apprenticeship program as an aid for the workforce needs of local manufacturers. Designed to enhance existing training programs offered by Eastern Florida State College, the program would provide training in precision machining/CNC, mechatronics, additive manufacturing, and industrial maintenance; it would also use German/Swiss/Austrian benchmark standards to determine worker skill levels. According to Bryan Kamm, a consultant assisting RUAG and other firms in implementing the program, the goal is to provide an opportunity for student trainees to earn stackable certifications in the manufacturing field, ultimately leading to permanent employment with area firms. The program also calls for the establishment of a new 8,000 sq. ft. training center and machine shop in Titusville. For additional information on Germanic Apprenticeship Programs (GAP), visit www.BKammConsulting.com.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON MAJOR AEROSPACE PROJECTS

Despite the impacts from Hurricane Irma, several area construction projects continue on pace for completion in early 2018. Included on that list are the new 750,000 sq. ft. **Blue Origin** manufacturing facility in Exploration Park, and the new 100,000 sq. ft. assembly building under construction for **OneWeb Satellites**, also situated in Exploration Park. Once completed, the two facilities are expected to create more than 500 new direct jobs combined for the area, and more than 1,000 indirect jobs.



Blue Origin Facility, Under Construction

AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

29,750 sq. ft. metal industrial building on U.S. Highway 1, south of State Highway 50 (Cheney Highway). Ceiling heights of 21' on eaves. Approximately 20-25 parking spaces in building rear. Formerly used by Ecklers' Industries. Building features 3-phase power; front and rear loading docks. Available for lease. Listing agent: Michael Moss, with Lightle Beckner Robison; at 321-722-0707.

25,505 sq. ft. metal industrial building, also on U.S. Highway 1, next to Ecklers' Industries corporate headquarters building. 15' eave height. Approximately 20-25 parking spaces. Building has 3-phase power and front and rear loading docks. Building available for lease. Listing agent: Michael Moss, with Lightle Beckner Robison; at 321-722-0707.

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, Scottsmoor, 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 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.

The **North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ)**, 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.

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, unless you're Kim Jong-un, in which case, we're not interested in your comments or questions until you unilaterally disarm.



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