



The new Sporting Kansas City MLS soccer stadium opening this summer in Kansas City, Kan.

# KC news

KCNEWS IS A QUARTERLY GROWTH UPDATE FOR THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA, KNOWN AS KCne.

## Wind Energy Company Selects KC Region for HQ, Assembly

**More than 200 new jobs will be created in Kansas City, Mo.**

Nordic Windpower USA has signed a Letter of Agreement to move its headquarters and wind turbine assembly operation to facilities near Kansas City International Airport. Nordic Windpower, a technology developer and manufacturer of innovative, utility-scale two-bladed wind turbines for the rapidly expanding community wind market, will invest \$16 million and create more than 200 skilled positions over the next six years.



“Nordic Windpower is very excited to be working in Kansas City with its strong sense of community, talented workforce, and proximity to transportation and our community wind customer base in the central wind corridor,” said Tom Carbone, CEO of Nordic Windpower.

Nordic Windpower is relocating from its current headquarters in Berkeley, Calif. and assembly facility in Pocatello, Idaho. The company also considered Texas and Mississippi for this project, selecting the Kansas City region following a 10-month evaluation facilitated by Newmark Knight Frank.

“As we look at Missouri’s economic future, we know that energy will be a high-growth industry in our state,” Missouri Governor Jay Nixon said. “By expanding the production of clean, renewable and domestic energy in Missouri, we provide reliable power for our communities, and we fuel the economy of the future.”

Nordic Windpower’s corporate headquarters will be located at 12200 NW Ambassador

Drive with production and assembly operations housed temporarily onsite at Kansas City International Airport. The company will eventually move to a new building at the KCI Intermodal Business Centre managed by Trammell Crow Companies.

“Bringing Nordic Windpower USA onboard as a tenant is in sync with our objective of attracting compatible industries to KCI Airport,” said Mark VanLoh, director of the Aviation Department.

Nordic Windpower was attracted to the Kansas City area due to the region’s strength in advanced energy engineering expertise, progressive energy leadership from KCP&L, leadership and assistance from Governor Nixon and the Missouri Department of Economic Development as well as the City of Kansas City, Missouri and Platte County. Innovative facility solutions provided by the Kansas City Aviation Department were key to the success of Nordic Windpower’s relocation to Kansas City.

KCADC was proud to partner with the following organizations to successfully attract Nordic Windpower to the KC region: **Missouri Partnership; Kansas City Aviation Department; KCP&L; Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri; City of Kansas City, Missouri; Missouri Department of Economic Development; Platte County Economic Development Council; GBA; Caymus Real Estate, LLP; CB Richard Ellis; Missouri Gas Energy; Coldwell Banker Relocation Center; Husch Blackwell, LLP; Lockton Companies; Midwest Research Institute; McCownGordon Construction; EFL Associates; GE Energy; Burns & McDonnell and KC SmartPort.**

[nordic.com](http://nordic.com)

## Ceva Santé Animale Confirms KC Region as North American HQ

**Announcement brings 20 new jobs to Lenexa, Kan.**

Ceva Santé Animale, a global leader in the animal health industry, has selected Lenexa, Kan., to maintain and expand its North American corporate headquarters.

“Ceva’s decision to maintain and expand its current Lenexa campus is a testament to the support we have received



from the Animal Health Corridor,” said Dr. Arnaud Bourgeois, vice president of Ceva Santé Animale. “We are committed to providing innovative vaccine solutions and quality products to improve the health and well-being of animals. Thanks to the Animal Health Corridor’s extended networking opportunities, resources in the State of Kansas, including the Kansas Bioscience Authority, and support from officials in Lenexa, we will continue to invest in breakthrough technologies that support our future growth.”

The company will create 20 new corporate level positions in HR, finance, IT, legal and customer service.

“Ceva is a flagship company in the KC Animal Health Corridor, and we are excited about their continued growth in Kansas,” said Pat George, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce. “We appreciate our successful partnership with this global leader and look forward to continued opportunities to work together in expanding the state’s bioscience industry.”

KCADC and the KC Animal Health Corridor were proud to partner with the following organizations in retaining this important headquarters in the region: **Lenexa Economic Development Council; Kansas Department of Commerce; Kansas Bioscience Authority; Karbank Real Estate Company LLP and KCP&L.**

[ceva.com](http://ceva.com)

## Plastikon to Bring More Than 120 Jobs to KC Region

**California-based healthcare company will locate in Lawrence, Kan.**

Plastikon, a contract manufacturer for the medical and healthcare industry, is locating a new production facility in Lawrence, Kan., creating 126 new jobs.

### PLASTIKON

“After many months of research and analysis we decided on Lawrence for our new site because of the highly skilled biotech and pharmaceutical employment base this great community offers. We have been very impressed with the people, city and state and are looking forward to launching our new successful project this spring,” said Kaveh Soofer, Plastikon’s vice president of Global Sales and Engineering.

Plastikon purchased a 40,000-sq.-ft. biopharmaceutical production facility in Lawrence’s East Hills Business Park. Plastikon will produce a sterile fluid product for the medical and healthcare industry, investing more than \$7 million in the project.

“Whenever a leading company like Plastikon chooses Kansas, it speaks volumes about our workforce, our pro-business policies and our status as a top state for the biosciences,” said Pat George, Secretary of the Kansas

Department of Commerce. “We thank Plastikon for its commitment to creating these new jobs, and we look forward to working with the company in the future.”

Plastikon also considered facilities in Chicago and South Carolina for this project. They plan to be operational in the second quarter of 2011.

Founded in 1982, Plastikon Industries is a worldwide leading provider in developing, manufacturing and delivering the best quality plastic products and assemblies. Plastikon has nine facilities throughout the world providing engineering services, tool design and build, injection molding, thermoforming, part decoration, assembly, rapid tooling and prototype development.

Tom Thornton, president of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, said, “Plastikon’s decision to establish its manufacturing operation in Kansas is another example of bioscience contributing to the state’s economic recovery—and long-term financial growth.”

KCADC was pleased to partner with the following organizations in attracting Plastikon to the region: **Lawrence Chamber of Commerce; Kansas Bioscience Authority; Kansas Department of Commerce; Colliers International and CRB Engineers and Builders.**

[plastikon.com](http://plastikon.com)

## Exergonix Selects KC Region for World HQ

**New energy storage technology to be made in Lee’s Summit, Mo.**

Exergonix, a fast-growing advanced energy company, recently selected Lee’s Summit, Mo., for its world headquarters and high-level technology product assembly. The company expects to bring 275 jobs with an average salary of \$51,000 to Lee’s Summit in its first five years. Exergonix plans to build a 250,000-sq.-ft., LEED certified manufacturing facility and learning campus at the intersection of U.S. 50 and M-291 Highway South in Lee’s Summit.

“We want to be a part of a community that embraces business. When a community supports companies like Lee’s Summit has supported Exergonix, it sends a strong message to investors outside the region,” said Don Nissanka, president and CEO of Exergonix. “Several local angel investors helped get Exergonix started, which had an impact on our decision. The City of Lee’s Summit also stepped up significantly to keep Exergonix here. Getting the community involved to build a successful business was a winning strategy for Lee’s Summit.”

Exergonix considered multiple cities in Missouri and Kansas as well as around the country. In addition to community involvement and support, other deciding factors included visibility and accessibility of the Lee’s Summit site from two major highways, quality of life and a highly skilled workforce.

This project will have a lasting effect on the community by bringing jobs and investment to Lee’s Summit. In addition to the initial \$90 million capital investment, the City expects the “ripple effect” of complementary and

supporting businesses in the clean energy sector will generate an estimated \$750 million over the next 10 years. “The ripple effect of Don’s vision for Exergonix is enormous. It’s not just a manufacturing facility, it’s a way of life that puts Lee’s Summit at the forefront of clean energy and green technology,” said LSEDC President and CEO Jim Devine. “Exergonix will spur the green technology and energy market in Lee’s Summit.”



The patented Exergonix energy storage systems employ new and significantly improved technologies in advanced battery cell design, environmental packaging and high performance electronic controls that offer advantages over competing energy storage systems. The Exergonix design has a higher energy density battery, provides optimum power with quick response capability, has increased cycle life, incorporates better safety mechanisms and delivers enhanced durability.

KCADC was proud to work with the following partners in attracting Exergonix to the KC region: **City of Lee’s Summit, Missouri; Lee’s Summit Economic Development Council; Missouri Partnership; Missouri Department of Economic Development; KCP&L; CB Richard Ellis; NECA/IBEW; TranSystems Corporation; ARCO National Construction Company, Inc.; Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. and KC SmartPort.**

[exergonix.com](http://exergonix.com)

COMMUNITY PROFILE | **Independence, Missouri**

Located just east of Kansas City, Mo., and positioned strategically at the crossroads of I-70 and I-470, Independence is a regional retail, office and health care center of excellence.

In 2012, the City of Independence will complete the Little Blue Parkway, a new thoroughfare connecting the eastern portion of the City from I-70 to MO Hwy. 24 which will open 38 square miles of land for new development. It is estimated that by the year 2020, the Little Blue Valley will be home to an additional 20,000 people and 5,000 new office, industrial and retail jobs. Many of those jobs will locate in the new Independence



Business Park situated at the intersection of MO Hwy. 78 and MO Hwy. 7. This project is a partnership between Clayco, CEAH Realtors and

Community of Christ Church to build a 360-acre business park which will be home to future

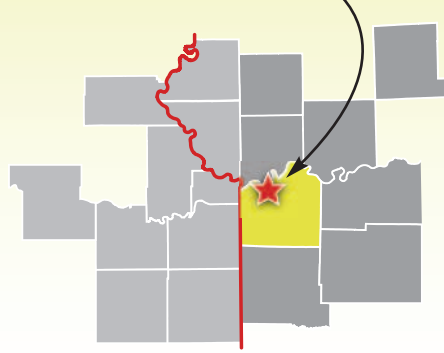


Site of the Independence Business Park

manufacturing, warehouse, distribution and office users. This development will complement the more than 15 million square feet of underground industrial space located in the city.

Independence is not only interested in attracting international and national companies, but also in fostering an environment that will grow successful entrepreneurs. In 2010, the Independence Regional Ennovation Center opened as the region's only mixed use business incubator. The Ennovation

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI



Center has transformed the former Independence Regional Medical Center into a launching pad for entrepreneurs with the necessary facilities and support services to assist successful start up businesses in a collaborative environment. The Ennovation Center focuses on three core areas for the development of new businesses, bio-tech, kitchen/culinary and business and technology.

[iNedc.biz](http://iNedc.biz)

**KC** area RATINGS & RANKINGS

**TheDailyBeast.com [10.2010]**

With 21 percent of the metro population having earned Bachelor's Degrees, **Kansas City ranked no. 12** out of 55 major metros on "America's Smartest Cities" list. The rankings are based on other statistics including how many residents have graduate degrees, nonfiction book sales and the ratio of institutions of higher education and libraries per capita.

**Forbes.com [10.2010]**

Forbes ranked **Kansas no. 10** and **Missouri no. 18** on its list of "Best States for Business." The ranking measured six vital categories for business: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life.

**TheDailyBeast.com [12.2010]**

The Daily Beast ranked the top 25 most charitable cities based on the amount of foundation giving per year, amount of household giving per year and yearly volunteers per capita. **Kansas City earned its no. 3 spot** by donating an average of 3.5 percent of the city's income earnings.

**StartupDigest.com [12.2010]**

With an entrepreneur growth rate of 22.97 percent, **Kansas City ranked as the third fastest startup community** around the world. Kansas City ranked just below San Diego (no. 1) and Sao Paulo (no.2) and above Miami (no. 4) and the Middle East (no.5).

**KC ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR**

U P D A T E

The KC region has the world's largest concentration of animal health industry assets with more than 220 companies representing one-third of global industry sales.

**University of Missouri Launches Vet-Tech Program**

Veterinary technology is forecasted by the U.S. Department of Labor to be among the fastest growing occupations in the next 10 years. However, there is a national shortage of credentialed veterinary technicians and technologists. Beginning in summer of 2011, the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (MU-CVM) will offer new online courses in biomedical technology and a certificate program in veterinary biomedical technology for graduate veterinary technicians. For more information please contact Dr. C.B. Chastain, director of Undergraduate Biomedical Science Education, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri - Columbia at [ChastainC@missouri.edu](mailto:ChastainC@missouri.edu).

**Aratana Therapeutics Inc. Raises \$20M, Kick-Starts New AH Company**

Aratana Therapeutics, a newly-formed company focused on the development of innovative therapies for the animal health industry, recently closed \$20 million in Series A financing led by MPM Capital and Avalon Ventures. The company is focused on taking advancements from the human biopharmaceutical industry and applying them in new ways to treat and care for animals. Aratana will take the products from license through regulatory approval, then sell them to, or partner with, larger pharmaceutical companies for commercialization. They are considering therapies that will generate \$100 million to \$200 million in annual revenue.

[mpmcapital.com](http://mpmcapital.com)

**KC SMARTPORT SUPPLY-CHAIN CENTERED**

U P D A T E

Keeping you up-to-date with information about the transportation, distribution and logistics industries in the greater Kansas City area.

**Missouri River Freight Development**

The Kansas City region sits on the largest navigable waterway system in the U.S. The Missouri River connecting to the Mississippi River to the east gives the KC region a waterway option among the transportation modes available. Water levels today on the Missouri River have created an increase in freight movement. An example of this growth was the maiden voyage of the M/V Mary Lynn on the Missouri River. The M/V Mary Lynn is a 3800 horsepower shallow-draft towboat owned and operated by AgriServices of Brunswick. This large boat will re-establish the Missouri River as a leading freight corridor by moving freight products exclusively down the Missouri River. Additionally, a federal

appropriation of \$900,000 will fund the state's effort to identify new market segments and growth opportunities on the Missouri River.

**Kansas City's Low-cost Transportation Creates Advantage for Distribution Facilities**

Transportation costs are one of the most critical aspects of determining where to locate freight-intensive businesses. The Kansas City region has low cost transportation options including the lowest truckload shipment costs in the U.S. This is due to its central location and proximity to major interstate routes such as, I-70, I-29, I-35 and soon, I-49. Kansas City also has the lowest overall travel distances to various markets, a growing intermodal infrastructure and significant air cargo capacity.

available **KC** REAL ESTATE

**CHILLICOTHE INDUSTRIAL PARK, Chillicothe, Mo.**

The City of Chillicothe, Mo., recently purchased 174 acres to more than double an existing industrial park located on U.S. 36. This four-lane highway is the shortest route between Chicago and Kansas City, now designated as the Chicago-Kansas City Expressway. Chillicothe, the business hub of North Central Missouri, is only 75 miles from Kansas City International Airport. The park is located in the new Enhanced Enterprise Zone and Foreign Trade Zone, as well as being designated an AT&T fiber optic park. Contact **Terry Rumery** of Rumery & Associates at 660.646.1900 or [terry@rumeryassociates.com](mailto:terry@rumeryassociates.com).



**THE GATEWAY, Mission, Kan.**

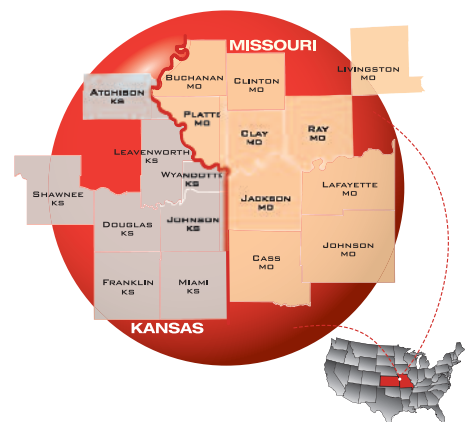
The Gateway is a 990,000-sq.-ft. mixed-use development located near the heart of Kansas City. The development includes 425,000 sq. ft. of Class "A" office space, a 150-room hotel and 70,500 sq. ft. of retail, restaurants and fitness amenities. An 8-screen movie theater, grocery store and 140 high-end residential units are also planned. Contact **Deb Settle**, president and CEO, Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, at 913.262.2141 or [dsettle@nejccchamber.com](mailto:dsettle@nejccchamber.com).



**KC kansas city AREA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Kansas City Area Development Council works to attract business, industry and talent to the 18-county, bistate Kansas City metro of two million people.

For confidential and professional assistance, please call our Business Development Team at 1.888.99KCADC, or fill out an information request form at [www.thinkKC.com](http://www.thinkKC.com)



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