

GE Jets Create Buzz in Asheville, Ashe County

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There was excitement in Asheville yesterday—and anticipation in Ashe County—as GE Aviation, broke ground at the site of its new advanced composites factory near Asheville. GE's plans include expansion of their facilities in West Jefferson, as well, and new jobs at both plants over the next few years. GE Aviation's executives involved in Composites Manufacturing were joined by Governor Pat McCrory and officials from the Asheville Area Chamber, Buncombe County, City of Asheville and NC Department of Commerce for the groundbreaking. The new 170,000-square-foot facility will be the first in the world to mass produce engine components made of advanced ceramic matrix composite materials. The GE release says the company will begin hiring at the new CMC components plant in 2014, and within five years, the workforce at the plant is expected to grow to more than 340 people.