



## **PRESS RELEASE**

June 11, 2013

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## **Monroe is Recognized as One of the Top Ten “No-Brainer” Locations for Manufacturing in the South**

*Southern Business & Development names Monroe, NC  
to one of its coveted Top Ten Listings for 2013*

*Southern Business & Development* magazine has named Monroe, NC to their “No-Brainer” list for manufacturing in the South for 2013. Monroe is the only community in North Carolina recognized for its accomplishments in recruitment, retention and support of manufacturing.

“This is a great recognition of the City’s hard work and dedication to our local industry,” said Monroe Mayor Bobby G. Kilgore. “Monroe has had a consistent record of making investments to provide the best services to our residents and businesses. This is a well-deserved recognition and it makes me feel very proud of our community.”

Mr. Michael C. Randle, Editor and Publisher of *Southern Business and Development*, was a panelist at the 2013 Groundhog Day Economic Summit in Monroe. Following the event he and Mr. Chris Platé, Executive Director of Economic Development for Monroe-Union County Economic Development were able to tour Monroe and see the incredible diversity and size of the City’s industrial sector.

"The Charlotte region, based on announced projects, is the No. 1 Major Market (750,000 to 2.5 million in population) in the American South over the past two decades," said Randle. "The fact that Monroe, N.C., a part of the Charlotte MSA, is the best performing sub-market in Charlotte is incredibly impressive. Its aviation and aerospace sector is legendary. We've visited [Monroe] and it's also a great place to live and work."

In the article, Monroe was described as follows:

*Located adjacent to Charlotte, N.C., Monroe is a hub of aerospace and precision manufacturing. In fact, Monroe has the highest geographic concentration of aerospace firms in both Carolinas (18 companies in a seven-mile radius). While known for its great location and easy access within the Southeast, the workforce is the secret about which everyone should be talking. Monroe has a population of approximately 35,000 with over 40 percent of its labor force employed in manufacturing. There is great diversity among its manufacturing community, from aerospace and medical device to food processing and chemical. Monroe is the county seat of the fastest growing county in North Carolina (Union). Even with the incredible growth the community has experienced, Monroe and Union County have had the lowest unemployment rate within the Charlotte Region for over 12 years running. Monroe is home to companies like UTC Aerospace, ATI Allvac, Tyson Foods, Greiner Bio-One, Assa Abloy, Colfax, Consolidated Metco and many others. In response to their manufacturers' global reach, the community is expanding its airport's capabilities to offer the only general aviation Customs facility in the Carolinas in mid-2014. With Monroe's commitment to precision manufacturing, this community is poised to take off with the surge of manufacturing's "reshoring" back to the United States.*

Since 1996, Monroe has had a commitment to helping the existing industry and recruit targeted industry to build a strong, diverse economic base.

“It is nice to see experts from outside of our Region recognize the work and effort that has been put forth by the Monroe City Council, the Economic Development Advisors and staff,” said Platé. “With the recent reorganization to a county-wide economic development entity, I look forward to extending this philosophy of growing our local businesses, creating high-paying job opportunities and recruiting new commercial investment across the entire county.”

For more information regarding Monroe-Union County Economic Development, please contact Chris Platé at (704) 282-5780 or [cplate@monroenc.org](mailto:cplate@monroenc.org).

*Southern Business and Development* article can be found at:

<http://www.sb-d.com/Features/TenManufacturingNoBrainers/tabid/561/Default.aspx>

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