



## CSP

the year. The CSP Lenoir facility supplies engine covers and wiper recess covers to PACCAR.

To be recognized, a supplier must operate near perfection – 10 or fewer defective parts for every 1 million parts shipped. PACCAR. These suppliers must also meet performance criteria for on-time delivery and support

of PACCAR's operating divisions and their customers.

PACCAR prides itself on a reputation of providing the marketplace with high-quality vehicles.

Much of the credit for this goes to suppliers such as CSP for its ability to meet or exceed the OEMs quality expectations.

## Aiken controls plans expansion

By Virginia Annable  
(Lenoir) News-Topic

An advanced technology developer in Lenoir is planning to expand its footprint and operations.

Aiken Controls, which designs manufacturing control panels, scanners and sensors, plans to double its main office in downtown Lenoir, owner Chris Aiken said.

The company moved in to its current 15,000-square-foot building on West Avenue in 2016 after extensive renovations. Now, an addition of a similar size is in store on an adjacent vacant lot.

"What we're trying to do is expand and have a place to do set-up and testing," Aiken said.

In the new building, there would be space for a permanent testing area – essentially a showroom for the technology Aiken Controls produces. Right now, if Aiken wants to show a potential customer how a piece of equipment works, other equipment has to be moved around to make room for the demonstration.

"We're growing out of our space," Aiken said.

The exact plans for the building haven't started yet because Aiken is considering including an upper floor of residential apartments.

"We're excited about the possibility, and the city is excited about the possibility, so we're working with them right now," he said.

# Caldwell hits milestone for employment

## More than 35,000 Caldwell residents employed in Feb.

Caldwell County achieved a couple of important milestones with the release of the February 2018 unemployment report.

According to data compiled by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division, the number of people employed surpassed 35,000 for the first time since July 2008.

In addition, the number of people in the labor force neared 37,000, another multi-year high.

The report showed 35,241 Caldwell residents were employed in February, with 36,861 individuals in the workforce.

The unemployment rate came in at 4.4 percent, the best February reading since 2000, and is 0.1 percentage point lower than the state average of 4.5 percent.

Caldwell's jobless rate is tied for 31st out of 100 counties, another marked improvement from 8 years ago, when the county's unemployment rate hit 17 percent. During an extended period of the Great Recession, Caldwell consistently ranked among the bottom five counties in the state for joblessness.

"These numbers continue to show the steady and consistent growth of our economy. I am particularly pleased with a workforce of nearly 37,000 - what a strong sign it is of the confidence workers have today in the opportunities here," Caldwell EDC Executive Director Deborah Murray said. "We also have secured an equally strong position in the state's economic ranking, in the top third for some time now as regards to the lowest unemployment."