



Rolls-Royce to Prince George called a top deal

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Rolls-Royce's choice of Prince George County for an aircraft engine plant has been named by Site Selection magazine as one of North America's top 10 economic development deals of 2007.

In its May issue, the magazine chose the top projects based on their regional economic impact, amount of investment, creation of high-value jobs, creativity in negotiations and incentives, competition and speed to market.

Rolls-Royce, a British company with its North American headquarters in Chantilly, announced in November that it would invest \$100 million to build a plant in Prince George that will employ about 170 people initially. The investment could reach \$500 million and create 500 jobs in several years.

Other deals recognized by the magazine include Toyota Motor Corp.'s \$1.3 billion investment in an assembly plant in Blue Springs, Miss., creating 2,000 jobs, and Google Inc.'s \$600 million investment in Lenoir, N.C., for a data center that will employ 210.

Rolls-Royce has started site preparation for the Prince George plant and said this week that it has named the top two executives for the project, both company veterans. Bob Stoddart is executive vice president, overseeing the project construction and on-site management team, and Tom Loehr is deputy executive vice president overseeing project financials and purchasing. -- John Reid Blackwell

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