



**VIRGINIA'S GATEWAY REGION**  
Economic Development Organization

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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the counties of  
Chesterfield  
Dinwiddie  
Prince George  
Surry  
Sussex

the cities of  
Colonial Heights  
Hopewell  
Petersburg

**Virginia Business Reports Gateway's Wow Factor**

Referencing Fort Lee, writer Gary Kranz reported in the June edition of Virginia Business Magazine that with "nearly 40 separate BRAC-related construction projects... planned or under way" and "\$1.2 billion in BRAC contracts... 24,000 jobs were either created or retained from April 2007 through March 2010." Referring to Fort Lee as the "preverbal Golden Goose for the region," Kranz writes that nearly \$2 billion in economic activity is anticipated "during the next several years".

With Fort Lee's population slated to grow from 17,000 to more than 42,000, Renee Chapline, Executive Director of Virginia's Gateway Region was quoted as asking, "Where else can companies find explosive population growth like that, and a captive audience to boot"?

Fort Lee was not the only focus for Kranz as he also reported on Rolls-Royce and their new Crosspointe site in Prince George County. Situated on more than 1,000 acres and eventually employing up to 500 people, Rolls-Royce Crosspointe will become the largest Rolls-Royce facility in terms of area in North America, Kranz writes. In the article, Rolls-Royce executive Paul McCoy, states that the region provides Rolls-Royce with potential employees that have the skills they need.

Kranz reports that Rolls-Royce has also set aside 120 acres for the numerous suppliers needed to support their operation. Although supplier demand was initially slow, inquires to Virginia's Gateway Region have picked up in 2010. With Rolls-Royce also comes the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) and the Commonwealth Center for Aerospace Propulsion Systems (CCAPS), both true research assets for the region.

As another example of the region's exciting growth and development opportunities, Kranz concluded his article by referencing the recent sale of the Brown and Williamson cigarette factory in Petersburg to Richmond-based Franklin Development Group for a reported \$3.5 million, a deal that Chapline was quoted as saying will further revive Petersburg's downtown.

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*Virginia's Gateway Region exists to enhance the economic development opportunities for the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg, and the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry and Sussex. The Gateway Region is a private, nonprofit economic development organization that is publicly and privately funded to facilitate new business opportunities, work with existing businesses, advance resources that will enhance the economic viability of the region and foster regional cooperation among the public and private entities that are involved in economic development activities. For more about VGR visit [www.gatewayregion.com](http://www.gatewayregion.com).*