



Wednesday, November

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SWIFT CUTS RIBBON AT FORMER KERR MILL IN FALL RIVER

Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center Will Create 120 Jobs

FALL RIVER – Governor Jane Swift today joined state, local and university officials for the grand opening of the new 60,000-square foot Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center (ATMC) at the former Kerr Mill in Fall River. The state-of-the-art facility will spur economic investment and create 120 new jobs in the South Coast region.

"This cutting edge technology center has risen from the embers of a devastating fire to become a symbol of progress and economic hope for the families of Fall River," said Swift, during a day-long tour of Southeastern Massachusetts as part of her Administration's Cabinet Day. "The ATMC will not simply create jobs, it will generate the intellectual capital that fuels emerging companies and spawns new technologies that are the hallmark of the Massachusetts economy."

Swift cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the official opening of the ATMC, the anchor for the redevelopment of the 33-acre former mill site. MassDevelopment, the state's quasi-public economic development agency, managed and financed the 14-month construction of the ATMC, and owns the building and the future 200,000 square foot South Coast Research and Technology Park, expected to create 600 new jobs, including the ATMC. Parcels adjacent to the center are now ready for development.

"It is a proud day for the City of Fall River as we celebrate the grand opening of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center," said Mayor Edward M. Lambert, Jr. "This magnificent building and the economic opportunities that this day and the building represent for the City has propelled Fall River to the forefront of New England cities. On behalf of the City of Fall River I extend my congratulations and appreciation for making Fall River your home."

The University of Massachusetts (UMass) at Dartmouth will occupy 50 percent of the ATMC, with the remaining space to be leased by MassDevelopment to private companies conducting research, development and engineering. Companies will tap into applied research and technology transfer from UMass faculty and students to increase productivity and help grow their businesses.

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"The University of Massachusetts is grateful to Governor Swift and Michael Hogan as well as to the state Legislature for bringing this project to such a brilliant conclusion," said UMass President William M. Bulger. "When we gathered on this site for the ground-breaking, we couldn't fully imagine how magnificent this facility would be. Now we can. We intend to fulfill its promise in every respect."

"The University of Massachusetts and the region's business and political leadership saw this as the right opportunity at the right time and in the right place to build the kind of R&D facility this region needs," said UMass Trustee Robert S. Karam. "I would like to thank the area legislative delegation for their tenacity, MassDevelopment for their innovative and tenacious skill in getting this facility built and Governor Swift for keeping her commitment."

The development of the site is another example of the state's highly successful Brownfields program. The Kerr Mill redevelopment cleaned up environmental contaminants while preserving open space with the creation of a one-acre park along the South Watuppa Pond.

"The ATMC engages the intellectual resources of UMass Dartmouth faculty and students with the important task of solving the challenges of today's industries and developing the technologies of tomorrow," said UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean F. MacCormack. "Students who work alongside their faculty in this exciting facility in partnership programs with industry will be exceptionally well-prepared."

"There are no limits to the potential for innovation and effective solutions to challenges facing area industries that this center can produce as a new economic engine for the South Coast," said MassDevelopment President Michael P. Hogan.



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