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Golden Gait sets up shop in Kannapolis

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Ken Elkins](#) Staff writer

A cargo-trailer manufacturer has started production in Kannapolis and plans to grow to 100 employees by the end of 2010.

Golden Gait Trailers moved from Mecklenburg County to N.C. Highway 73 at Interstate 85, where it has gained greater access to the motorsports teams that are among its primary customers.

The company also boosted its visibility with the move to an interstate location, says Tim Masud, president and chief executive. "Our business is on the road or it's going up and down the road," he says.

Eddie Smith, Kannapolis assistant city manager, says Golden Gait is the kind of company the area needs to diversify its job base.

The Golden Gait facility measures 53,000 square feet. The company left a 10,000-square-foot building on Mount Holly-Huntersville Road last month. It had 40 employees at that site and has already expanded to 51, Masud says.

He hopes to boost the work force to 100 employees within three years.

Golden Gait is a dealership with a large shop for creating mobile command centers, concession stands, livestock haulers and race-car trailers. Masud says the company has also created a mobile hospital for a health-care customer.

In 2005, the company announced plans for a move to Kannapolis. It will get \$40,000 in incentives from the town over the next five years.

"We think Golden Gait will easily meet their job creation and real estate investment projections," Smith says.

C.M. Black Construction Co. Inc. was the general contractor for the company's new building.

The area around I-85 exit 55 has attracted seven or more developments, including the **McAlpine Group's** plans for up to 200,000 square feet of commercial space at N.C. 73 and Kannapolis Parkway.

"Our planning and zoning department handles dozens of calls each day from potential companies looking to relocate or expand to the city of Kannapolis," Smith says.