



Governor McCrory (fourth from left) and N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla (far right) at the GF Linamar announcement in Henderson County February 22.

## Governor McCrory Announces 350 New Manufacturing Jobs for Henderson County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) joined executives from GF Automotive and Linamar Corporation in announcing the arrival of 350 manufacturing jobs in Henderson County during the coming five years.

GF Linamar LLC, a joint venture between GF Automotive and Linamar, will invest \$217 million in a new facility in the Town of Mills River in two phases over the next seven years. The company will supply light-weight powertrain, driveline and structural components to the North American automotive industry.

"Two major international manufacturers are coming together, and they've selected North Carolina as the destination for their innovative joint venture," said Governor McCrory. "Our hard-working, well-trained labor force and convenient proximity to leading automakers are among the many assets that make our state the ideal choice for strategic, innovation-based ventures such as GF Linamar."

The project unites Switzerland-based GF Automotive with Canada's Linamar Corporation. GF Linamar will apply cutting-edge technology in producing light-weight automotive components that enhance vehicle fuel efficiency. GF Automotive's parent company, Georg Fischer Ltd, was founded in 1802 and has operations in 31 countries. Linamar, founded in Canada in 1966, opened a manufacturing plant in Buncombe County in 2012. Just two years later, it launched a \$115 million expansion there. Linamar also operates a forging facility in Wilson, North Carolina.

"North Carolina continues to lead the southeastern U.S. in



### 175 New Jobs Announced in Richmond County Expansion

RSI Home Products Manufacturing, Inc. will expand its North Carolina operations with a new facility in Richmond County that will employ 175 workers. The maker of kitchen and bathroom cabinetry plans to invest \$5.8 million there during the next five years.

"Manufacturing leaders continue to choose North Carolina because nothing compares to the great workforce, competitive cost structure and market access they find here," said Governor Pat McCrory. "RSI Home Products Manufacturing builds off a tradition of quality and innovation that has made it an outstanding fit for our state's business community."

Since Governor McCrory took office in January of 2013, North Carolina has witnessed the net creation of more than 260,000 private-sector jobs.

RSI has over 3 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution operations with assembly and distribution facilities in California, Texas and North Carolina. The company has been manufacturing its products in North Carolina for over 20 years and currently operates a one million square foot facility in Lincolnton which employs more than 700 full time people.

"North Carolina's manufacturing economy continues to lead the Southeast, and the success of companies like RSI Home Products is among the many reasons why," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "Manufacturing now contributes about \$90 billion to our state's GDP and employs nearly 450,000 people."

The manufacturers' expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a

manufacturing, and today's announcement puts us ahead even further," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "With the addition of GF Linamar to the state's industrial roster, our transportation manufacturing cluster is now well into overdrive, with more than 160 companies employing 17,000 workers.":

"We are very pleased to announce that we have selected Henderson County, North Carolina as the site of the GF Linamar LLC foundry," said **Linda Hasenfratz, CEO of Linamar**. "This will be our 4th plant in North Carolina, an area where we have thrived thanks to a fantastic workforce and a great business environment. It is rapidly becoming an important hub for us to serve our customers in the southern U.S."

GF Linamar's arrival in Henderson County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee. Under the terms of the company's JDIG, GF Linamar is eligible to receive up to \$4.2 million in total reimbursements, provided the company meets its job creation and investment commitments. The project was also made possible by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina fund of up to \$500,000.

Working with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), [N.C. Transportation](#), [NCWorks](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Blue Ridge Community College](#), [Henderson County](#), [Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development](#), the [Town of Mills River](#), [Duke Energy](#) and the [Golden Leaf Foundation](#).

[Read more.](#)



*The prototype of a license plate featuring North Carolina's new brand. Artist concept subject to change.*

## Pride on Your Ride: Applications Still Being Accepted

The N.C. Brand Team based at Commerce is still receiving applications from people across the state interested in displaying their state pride on their 'ride,' whether car, truck or other licensed vehicle.

The Pride on Your Ride campaign aims to create and issue a new specialty license plate. Along with the inspirational tagline "Nothing Compares," the plate will prominently feature the new state brand logo, a green and blue "NC" encompassing the outline of a long leaf pine, symbolic of our state's deep historic roots and scenic diversity from the mountains to the sea. The plate will be the latest option for motorists under the N.C. Department of Transportation's specialty license plate program.

To begin the process of claiming your new 'Nothing Compares' plate, visit this special page on Commerce's website:

performance-based grant of up to \$550,000 from the One North Carolina Fund. In addition, a \$750,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program will help ready the company's building for operation. The CDBG funds are administered by the Rural Economic Development team at N.C. Commerce.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), the [North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority](#), [Richmond County Board of Commissioners](#), and [Richmond County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)



*Governor McCrory (right) presents a commemorative china plate to Krystal Engineering CEO Mark Rauchfuss*

## Krystal Engineering Launches New Facility in Caldwell County, Creating 82 News Jobs

Krystal Engineering, LLC, will open a production facility in Caldwell County, ramping up an 82-person workforce during the next five years. The company, a leading global processor of materials for electronics components, plans to invest \$20.9 million at the site over that period.

"Krystal Engineering will make a valuable addition to North Carolina's manufacturing sector," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "The company will recruit a great workforce with pay and benefits that are nearly double the county's average annual wage."

Florida-based Krystal Engineering produces a wide range of components fabricated from several single-crystal piezoelectric, optical, and other proprietary materials that are integrated into a multitude of end-product applications including aerospace, automotive, industrial, medical and telecommunications.

"North Carolina is a destination for a wide variety of companies across numerous

[nccommerce.com/nc-license-plate](http://nccommerce.com/nc-license-plate).

Show your pride on your ride in North Carolina: where everything is possible and Nothing Compares!

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## RURAL FOCUS

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### RIA Grants Will Support 152 New Jobs

**Governor Pat McCrory** announced on February 18 that grant and loan requests totaling more than \$3.7 million have been awarded, the result of action taken by the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA).

The RIA awards include commitments to create a total of 152 new jobs.

"Job creation begins with modern infrastructure," said **Governor McCrory**. "By funding utility improvements, access roads and building upgrades, these grants will enable small and mid-sized communities across North Carolina to embrace exciting opportunities for economic prosperity."

Several categories of grants were used by the RIA to fulfill community requests.

One Economic Infrastructure Project was approved:

- **City of Sanford (Lee County):** A \$103,615 grant to assist with the extension of a 1,900-linear-foot water line that will support a 20-job expansion by Comfort First Heating & Cooling, Inc.

The RIA approved one request using the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account:

- **City of Wilson (Wilson County):** A \$1,377,759 grant to assist with the extension of wastewater service to serve 670 acres of developable publicly-owned land at the intersection of U.S. Highway 264 Bypass and N.C. Highway 58. The property has the potential to draw \$670 million in capital investment.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/loans approved:

- **Davidson County:** A \$750,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building in Lexington by Elite Tube and Fab Company. The company will create 38 new jobs at the facility, which was constructed in the 1940s and has been vacant for the past year.
- **City of Brevard (Transylvania County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the redevelopment of a vacant department store building on Brevard's Main Street for use by D.D. Bullwinkel Company. The building was constructed in the 1940s. The loan is part of a collaborative solution funded by CDBG and the Downtown Redevelopment Fund of the North Carolina Main Street program.

The RIA approved a total of five grants under the state's Building Reuse program:

- **Caldwell County:** A \$411,375 grant to support the renovation of a building in Lenoir that will facilitate a 42-job expansion at Bakers Waste Equipment. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$822,750.
- **Martin County:** A \$150,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Williamston by Metcore Industrial Solutions. The company, a manufacturer of high-

industries, but one recurring theme is a commitment to innovation," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "Krystal Engineering's dedication to innovation and customer responsiveness makes it a perfect fit for North Carolina."

"There were a number of factors that attracted us to Caldwell County including access to highly reliable, and low cost electrical energy, an excellent pool of local talent and the facility provided by Caldwell Community College to support the recruitment and training of local personnel were all important factors," said **Krystal Engineering Chief Executive Officer Mark Rauchfuss**. "Perhaps the most important advantage for us has been the long standing relationships we have with several key members of the business community here. The level of enthusiasm and desire that we encountered has been extraordinary - no other state is able to offer this combination of compelling attributes."

This new operation in North Carolina is due in part to a performance-based grant of up to \$500,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Caldwell County](#), [Caldwell County Economic Development Commission](#), [Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute](#), the [Town of Granite Falls](#), and [ElectriCities](#).

[Read more.](#)



### NC Competes for Jobs Tour Stops in Wilson Thursday

**Governor Pat McCrory** invites local community leaders to join **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla** and his economic development and workforce team for the *NC Competes for Jobs* Tour, stopping in Wilson this Thursday, March 3.

The session will convene at Wilson Community College at 2:00 p.m.

The *NC Competes for Jobs* events offer attendees a fast-paced, information-packed session outlining solutions N.C. Commerce

precision sheet metal components and assemblies for use in agriculture and other industries, will create 12 jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$881,000, bringing back to productive use a building that has been vacant for nearly three years.

- **Pitt County:** A \$125,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Greenville that will facilitate a 10-job expansion by Metallix Refining. The building has been vacant for two years. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$950,000.
- **Randolph County:** A \$220,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Archdale that will facilitate a 22-job expansion by Ace Avant Concrete Construction. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$1,546,755.
- **Town of Columbia (Tyrrell County):** A \$100,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by Stiletto Manufacturing. The building was constructed in 2003 and has been vacant for seven years. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$1,126,497.



The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at N.C. Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. For more information on how your community can benefit from these funds, visit our website at [nccommerce.com/rd](http://nccommerce.com/rd).

[Read more.](#)



## North Carolina Awards Three Film and Entertainment Grants

A three-hour musical, *Dirty Dancing*, the independent feature film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, and a new television event series titled *Shots Fired* will all film in North Carolina, thanks in part to funds provided from the North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant program.

Each recipient will begin production within the next 60 days. The three projects combined are expected to have direct in-state spending of more than \$64.5 million while creating approximately 7,600 job opportunities in the state.

"Two of our grantees are returning to film in North Carolina and that is exactly what we want - repeat business," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "We want to continue long term relationships on both the big and small screen."

*Dirty Dancing* is an adaption of the beloved 1987 hit romantic drama and instant movie classic, which was shot in part in North Carolina. The new production will take place in the state's western region, including Jackson and Buncombe Counties among other locations. The eligible grant amount is up to \$4 million.

*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* is an independent feature-length film that will also base out of the state's western

offers to local leaders for the work of growing their local economies.

Attendees learn more about:

- Grants and loans available for local economic development
- Available assistance to plan and build local infrastructure, water and sewer
- Finding and training local workers, using the state's NCWorks system
- Regulatory reforms to the state's business climate
- Changes in the state's tax rates
- The team at N.C. Commerce, and how to contact the right people who can help

There is still time to RSVP for the Wilson event; to do so, send an email to [rsvp@nccommerce.com](mailto:rsvp@nccommerce.com). For information about future tour stops, [email James Estes in the Secretary's office.](#)



*Hi-Wire Brewing used NCWorks to bolster staff.*

## NCWorks @ Work: Asheville Business Succeeds Using On-the-Job Training Program

**Adam Charnack** knows the importance of getting his ingredients right, both in brewing and in hiring. Thanks to NCWorks, he's made his business - and his product - stronger than ever.

Charnack is the co-founder of Hi-Wire Brewing, tucked away in the beautiful mountains of Asheville. His company produces four beers annually, in addition to seasonal selections and in-house-only small batches. Charnack wanted to grow his business, and he was advised to seek out the help of NCWorks to do it.

Charnack turned to the Mountain Area

region with filming taking place in Jackson and Buncombe counties among other locations. The eligible grant amount is up to \$3,106,772.

*Shots Fired* is a series from 20th Century Fox Television and Imagine Television that will base out of Charlotte. The eligible grant amount is up to \$9 million.

"North Carolina continues to be a choice location for a variety of projects and the latest recipients, who will join previously awarded productions in the Wilmington and Research Triangle areas, show that this industry is indeed statewide," said **Guy Gaster, director of the North Carolina Film Office** within the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. "In addition to job opportunities for many of our state's highly-skilled film professionals, these projects will also help stimulate economic activity in the communities in which they film."

Workforce Development Board, a member of the NCWorks initiative. The board told him about On-the-Job Training (OJT), in which an employer hires and trains individuals for jobs while the workforce board provides funding for up to half the cost of each salary. Charnack used the program to bring on two new people - one has since been promoted.

"They're great," Charnack said. "The NCWorks program has allowed us to attract and retain talent, and our employees have demonstrated that our commitment to them is a two-way street and that they are top-notch at what they do for us."

NCWorks also helped Charnack connect to further financial and job-training assistance. Hi-Wire applied for an NCWorks Incumbent Worker Training Grant. This program reimburses employers for the cost of training their workers, helping to produce a stronger workforce and a more profitable business. The brewery received more than \$11,000 to train and certify three employees in brewing technology, packaging and process technology, quality control, programmable logic controllers, and stainless welding.

These efforts haven't gone unnoticed. In June 2015, the Asheville Chamber of Commerce gave its Entrepreneur of the Year Award to Charnack. A month later, Hi-Wire Brewing opened a 27,000-square-foot production facility in Biltmore Village, quadrupling its brew capacity, tripling its number of employees, and enabling regional distribution and even greater consistency with its products.

"They've been fantastic," Charnack said of the NCWorks staff, "easy to work with, flexible, and plain old helpful."

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## N.C. in the News

- [West Pharmaceutical Services Invests \\$19 Million To Expand Kinston, North Carolina, Production Center](#) (*Area Development* - February 26)
- [State resources available to spur economic development](#) (*Henderson Dispatch* - February 24)
- [GE engine made in Durham to debut in Airbus, Boeing](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - February 22)
- [North Carolina crosses \\$1B mark for startup funders in 2015](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - February 18)
- [Lockheed Martin signs 30MW North Carolina solar PPA with Duke Energy](#) (*PV Tech* - February 3)

### About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-

sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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