



sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders (right), during the socially-distanced event in Holly Springs with Governor Cooper and FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies' CEO Martin Meeson (center).

Governor Cooper Announces 725 Jobs as FUJIFILM Diosynth Selects Wake County

FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies U.S.A. Inc., a world leading contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), will create 725 jobs and expressed its intent to invest \$2 billion in Wake County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced last Thursday (March 18).

The company will build North America's largest end-to-end biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Holly Springs, confirming the central role of North Carolina's Research Triangle region for the next generation of biotech medicines.

"Today's decision shows once again that North Carolina is a world-class location for the most innovative biotech companies in the industry," said **Governor Cooper**. "Since FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies already operates a facility in our state, they have complete confidence this new plant will succeed as well, thanks to North Carolina's skilled workers, our commitment to workforce training, and the growing strength of our life science industrial cluster."

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders, a former executive in the life science sector, joined the Governor onstage for a strictly socially-distanced announcement event at the Holly Springs Cultural Center last Thursday.

FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies is a world leading Biologics



Expansion by Pharmaceutical Company Creates 74 New Jobs in Transylvania County

Pharmaceutical firm Raybow USA Inc. will expand its operations in Transylvania County. The company plans to add 74 jobs over the coming five years and will invest \$15.8 million at its existing site in Brevard.

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders participated in an [announcement of the project last Friday \(March 19\), conducted as a virtual event published online by Transylvania County officials.](#)

Raybow USA was founded as PharmAgra Labs in 1999 by two North Carolina entrepreneurs. Today, the Brevard-based company is the North American unit of China's Raybow Pharmaceuticals. The company currently employs 24 in Brevard and focuses on early-stage R&D and process research through Phase II clinical trials.

Peter Halkjaer-Knudsen, Executive Vice President of Raybow Pharmaceuticals said, "Raybow Pharmaceuticals is proud to announce that, after only one year, we are ready to further increase our commitment in North Carolina. We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received and the continued support we experienced during the feasibility studies for this expansion. Transylvania County has proven to be the right choice for our North American headquarters and R&D operations and we very much look forward to the continued journey with the people of North Carolina"

Peter Newsome, Co-President of Raybow USA said, "These investments fit perfectly with our long-term goal of expanding our operations in Transylvania County."

Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO).

The company operates another North Carolina site in Morrisville, in operation since 1996. That site has more than 600 employees today.

“We are very appreciative of the commitment and the support given by the State of North Carolina to the growth of the Biopharmaceutical industry, said **Kenji Sukeno, president of Fujifilm Corporation**. “We are delighted to expand our footprint here in North Carolina as we fulfill our mission to help our customers accelerate development and supply of high-quality medicines to patients.

“As a former executive in the life sciences sector, I’ve never seen a more exciting and promising time for this critical, North Carolina industry,” said **Secretary Sanders**. “As companies like FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies embrace innovation to support the delivery of new medicines in development by its customers, North Carolina must also embrace innovation to discover new ways to develop the skilled and diverse workforce 21st century companies need to thrive.”

Positions at the new facility will include engineers, scientists, manufacturing personnel, and other support positions and will generate nearly \$85 million in payroll impact to the region each and every year.

The company's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the 12-year term of the grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$5.5 billion.

Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$19,724,250, spread over 12 years, based on a required capital investment of \$1.5 billion. Over those 12 years, new state tax revenues generated by the new jobs will exceed \$160 million.

The company's JDIG agreement could also move as much as \$6,574,750 into a fund that helps rural communities across the state attract business in the future, the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.

FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies was also awarded a grant of two million dollars from the state's One North Carolina Fund.

Partnering with the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), the [N.C. Department of Environmental Quality](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Duke Energy](#), [The UNC System Office](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#), [North Carolina Central University](#), [Duke University](#), the [North Carolina Japan Center](#), [Capital Area Workforce Development](#), [Wake Tech](#), [Town of Holly Springs](#), [Wake County](#), and [Wake County Economic Development](#), a program of the Raleigh Chamber.

Roger Frisbee, Co-President of Raybow USA added, “We are excited about expanding our operations in Brevard and supporting future economic development in Transylvania County. Pete and I look forward to continuing our work, which now includes increased global capabilities and reach.”

“North Carolina pioneered contract pharmaceutical discovery more than a generation ago, and today the industry connects many of our communities with global life sciences opportunities,” said **Commerce Secretary Mabelle Sanders**. “We welcome this major expansion by Raybow USA, whose local roots showcase the best traditions of entrepreneurship in our state.”

A performance-based grant of \$375,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Raybow USA's expansion in North Carolina.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Transylvania County](#), the [City of Brevard](#), and the [Transylvania County Alliance](#).



Webinar On Tap March 30 to Review Recommendations of New Offshore Wind Industry Report

The authors of a recent report commissioned by the Department of Commerce will hold an educational webinar on March 30 to review the report's recommendations.

The team that led to the publication of the *Building North Carolina's Offshore Wind Supply Chain* report, BVG Associates, Lloyds Register, Timmons Group and N.C. State University (*Economic Development Partnership and NC Clean Energy Technology Center*), will discuss the key recommendations for North Carolina and invite audience questions.

Registration is free and open to the public: [Register now](#).

The full report, [Building North Carolina's Offshore Wind Supply Chain](#), is available online at ncommerce.com.

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