

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



The Alevo GridBank, an advanced lithium-ion storage system.

Governor Cooper Announces 200-Plus Job Expansion by Alevo in Cabarrus County

Alevo, an energy service provider, will launch a major expansion at its facility in Cabarrus County, creating more than 200 jobs over the next five years. The company will invest \$251 million at its production operations in Concord.

Governor Roy Cooper made the announcement February 28.

"It's exciting that a global company like Alevo chooses to manufacture its cutting-edge energy storage products right here in North Carolina, in the heart of one of our state's strongest manufacturing regions," **said Governor Cooper**. "We need to continue to recruit and train for 21st century jobs like these."

Alevo is part of a Swiss-based group of companies founded in 2009. With operations in the United States and Europe, the company is building its battery manufacturing and grid data analytics divisions in North Carolina, creating a global energy storage business for the world's largest energy companies. The Concord location is Alevo's first US manufacturing site where the rechargeable GridBank™ Lithium-Ion battery storage system is made. Alevo currently has 215 full time employees in Concord.

"North Carolina has the right mix of strong workforce, infrastructure and business climate to enable manufacturing companies like Alevo to succeed and grow their capacity," **said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**.



New Funds Available to Help Businesses Develop Skilled Talent

A new grant program for workforce development will provide \$1 million this year to develop talent pipelines for high-growth industries in North Carolina.

Maximize Carolina Sector Grants, offered by N.C. Commerce's Division of Workforce Solutions will provide money to employer groups facing talent shortages in high-demand occupations. The funds will further advance industry sector strategies such as career pathways and apprenticeships.

The grants are available for partnership groups in emerging industry sectors, including information technology, energy, advanced manufacturing, environmental sustainability, aerospace, defense, analytics, industrial maintenance, health care, and hospitality/tourism.

"North Carolina's businesses now have a powerful new way to find and develop the employees they need," **said N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Governor Cooper promised to strengthen our businesses and build an economy that works for everyone, and this new grant program helps achieve that goal."

The new program encourages businesses to form innovative partnerships and to work together to support workforce training, hiring, and other approaches to improve regional economies. To qualify for funding, these partnerships must include multiple businesses and the local workforce development board at a minimum.

Alevo will hire manufacturing, engineering, maintenance, logistics, supply chain, and other employees. Salaries will vary by position, but the annual compensation of the company's two hundred plus new jobs will average \$56,327. Cabarrus County's overall average wage is currently \$37,808 per year.

"This latest period of expansion is another significant milestone for Alevo," explained **Per Dybwad, CEO and Director, Alevo**. "As we continue to ramp up production, this phase of investment will be used to source the best possible engineering and manufacturing talent as we look to fill, test and ship our Alevo GridBanks around the world."

Alevo's expansion in Cabarrus County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The company is eligible to receive up to \$2,638,000 in total reimbursements, provided the company meets incremental job creation and investment targets.

JDIGs are funded by tapping a portion of the newly created tax-base that's generated from the new jobs. Some of this new money is reimbursed to the company but the overall revenue benefit to the state remains positive.

In addition, when a company receiving a JDIG award selects a Tier 3 county as its location, 25 percent of the total grant is directed to the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to help finance economic infrastructure in rural counties. Alevo's expansion could provide as much as \$879,000 in new funds for the Utility Account.

Partnering with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Cabarrus County](#), the [City of Concord](#), [Cabarrus Economic Development Corporation](#), and [Duke Energy](#)

[Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Michelle Byrne and Evan McGill, Therafirm; Sanjay Nikumbh, United Medical Suppliers; Morgan Green, DryPro; Frank Wang, BioMedomics; Mike Hubbard, EDPNC.

N.C. Companies Find Success at Arab Health Trade Show

Six North Carolina companies recently attended the Arab Health Exhibition in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The venue provided an opportunity for the companies to meet with potential distributors, retailers and joint venture partners. Arab Health, which was held January 29 - February 2, hosted more than 4400 exhibitors from 70 countries and showcased a wide range of new products and technologies.

The trade show opportunity was coordinated by the

Grant funding will be determined based on the number of businesses in the partnership and the partnerships are required to raise matching funds. Each partnership must complete an application and will receive a response from the Division within two weeks. Interested employers should contact their local workforce development board for more information.

The division anticipates awarding between 16 and 30 grants annually, depending on available funds. Funding for the *Maximize Carolina Sector Grants* comes from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.



For more information on these grants and to download an application form, visit nccommerce.com/workforce.



777 Air Service to London In Focus at Upcoming Networking Event

American Airlines' decision to return Boeing 777 aircraft to its Raleigh-Durham to London service will be the focus of a celebration and networking event on March 16, hosted by the Triangle chapter of the British-American Business Council and TIE Carolinas.

During the March 16th program, **Bob Ingram, General Partner, Hatteras Venture Partners** (and formerly Vice Chairman, Pharmaceuticals at GSK) will provide a background on how the American Airlines London service from RDU got off the ground in the first place and the ongoing importance of the route for the Triangle and beyond. **Kathy Keily, Managing Director of Sales, Southeastern Division, American Airlines** will highlight the resumption of 777 service on the London flight while **Mike Landguth, President and CEO of the RDU Airport Authority** will address the RDU Master Plan Vision 2040.

The event will feature an opportunity to ask questions followed by a reception with refreshments.



The event runs from 5:30-8:00pm and will be held at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport General Aviation Terminal. [Register online.](#)

International Trade Division at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC).

The Dubai event brought together buyers and sellers to discuss opportunities in the field of health care and health care technology. Areas of focus included medical devices, diagnostic equipment, and a wide range of products for health care professionals and the patients they treat. With more than 100,000 visitors attending the show, Arab Health is the largest gathering of healthcare and trade professionals in the Middle East/North Africa region.

The North Carolina exhibit at the show, located in the U.S. Pavilion, featured several companies including BioMedomics, Dry Corp, Therafirm/Knit-Rite, and United Medical Suppliers. AMTAI and Matthews Speciality Vehicles also had booths in the U.S. Pavilion. EDPNC coordinated federal grants (STEP) provided by the Small Business Administration to assist with travel expenses and translation of marketing materials into Arabic.

International Trade Manager Mike Hubbard led the effort to facilitate North Carolina exports and to assist the companies in forging new partnerships in the growing international health market.



For more information on how the state's export team can assist companies in your area generate new revenue from international markets, visit edpnc.com. A [list of upcoming trade events](#) is also available online.



New Transatlantic Service Added at Wilmington

Increased shipping capacity to Europe is being added to the state's logistics system, thanks to a new partnership between North Carolina Ports, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and Maersk Line. The new container service will provide unprecedented access between Bremerhaven, Felixstowe, Le Harve and Wilmington, North Carolina.

"An optimized transatlantic trade network allows us to align our

On Our Radar

- [Governor Cooper's Budget Released: Common Ground Solutions for NC](#)
- [NCEDA 2017 MidWinter Conference](#) (March 14-15 | Raleigh)
- [Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg to speak at N.C. A&T](#) (March 13)
- [Still time to apply: Oak Ridge National Lab Summer Science Academy \(for Western N.C. students & teachers\)](#)
- [2017 Visit North Carolina 365 Conference](#) (March 19-21 | Greenville)

N.C. in the News

- [Forum plots economic strategies](#) (*Rocky Mount Telegram* - March 3)
- [N.C. ranks 4th in Governor's Cup: Greensboro-High Point 6th among metros its size](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 1)
- [Report: NC's life science sector drives double-digit job growth](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - March 1)
- [Greenville's new economic strategy in full swing](#) (*The East Carolinian* - East Carolina University - February 27)
- [Imports, Exports With Europe To Increase At Port Of Wilmington](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - February 23)
- [Pitt Street brewery hops closer to opening with grant](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - February 22)
- [Olde Mecklenburg is expanding into the suburbs](#) (*Charlotte Observer*) - February 20)

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.](#)

services with North Carolina's business needs," said **N.C. Ports Executive Director, Paul J. Cozza**. "As we continue to invest in our facilities we'll see even more activity at our Port of Wilmington, thus furthering our economic contribution to the state."

As part of its ongoing infrastructure investment plan, North Carolina Ports recently announced the order of two New Panamax ship-to-shore cranes with an option to purchase two more. Between the new cranes, turning basin expansion project, various berth improvements, and the expansion of the container yard, North Carolina Ports will pump over \$120 million into its infrastructure over the next few years.

"This service opens up capacity for supplementary imports and exports from markets in Northern Europe," said **N.C. Ports Chief Commercial Officer Greg Fennell**. "To have the top two container carriers in the world come together and provide service options for us on the transatlantic and transpacific side is pretty special."

North Carolina's ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, plus inland terminals in Charlotte and in Greensboro, link the state's consumers, businesses and industry to world markets, and serve as magnets to attract new business and industry to the State of North Carolina.

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