

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



In Four Oaks earlier today (L-R), North Carolina Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland with Charlie Malhouf, CEO of Broad River Retail.

Home Furnishings Retailer to Create 161 Jobs with New East Coast Operations in Johnston County

A new 182,300 square-foot Ashley HomeStore complex will be built in Johnston County alongside Interstate 95, creating 161 jobs in Four Oaks, Governor Roy Cooper announced earlier today.

Broad River Retail, LLC, an Ashley HomeStore licensee, will create the jobs as it locates a distribution center and retail store to serve customers in North Carolina and parts of South Carolina and southern Virginia.

"North Carolina's central, east coast location and strong transportation networks help retailers deliver products to



(L-R) Secretary Copeland presents a ceremonial fine china plate to Dr. Vanderwagen, Principal Director of E-N-G at the announcement event in Fayetteville.

60 New Jobs Announced as Specialty Vehicle Manufacturer Chooses Cumberland County for First East Coast Location

A designer and manufacturer of specialized vehicles, like electronic news gathering trucks, will create 60 jobs as it locates its first East Coast operations in Cumberland County, Governor Roy Cooper announced May 16.

E-N-G Mobile Systems will invest \$2.3 million in the new facility, located in Fayetteville.

"Manufacturers know they can find the skilled workforce they need to grow here in North Carolina," said **Governor Cooper**. "E-N-G was looking to expand with its first location on the East Coast near the company's diverse customer base and North Carolina is a perfect fit."

E-N-G started designing live news trucks more than 40 years ago. Their product line has broadened to include specialized vehicles for public health and mobile laboratories, advanced technology, incident command and control, and utility services. E-N-G's custom vehicles are now sold worldwide.

"E-N-G is very pleased to be expanding its production activities here to Fayetteville and Cumberland County," said **Dr. Craig Vanderwagen, Principal Director of E-N-G**. "We are most appreciative of Governor

customers quickly," said **Governor Cooper**. "Broad River Retail's decision to establish a distribution hub in Johnston County reaffirms North Carolina's advantages as a business location."

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland led a public event this morning, announcing the project on behalf of the Governor.

Broad River Retail is a privately held company that operates 20 Ashley HomeStores in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The new facility in Four Oaks will be the second campus for Broad River Retail and a multi-purpose location that will include an Ashley HomeStore plus Ashley HomeStore Outlet connected to a state-of-the-art, distribution center, call center, learning center and regional campus. The new will sit on over 30 acres of land

"This announcement is an exciting and important milestone for our company and is a testament to all of our talented team members who have contributed to our success and growth," said **Charlie Malouf, President and CEO, for Broad River Retail**. "This deal would not have happened without the leaders from the Town of Four Oaks, Johnston County and the State of North Carolina. We were extremely pleased with how quickly everyone from economic development came together to make today's announcement a reality, and we are grateful for the incredible collaboration."

"The furniture industry continues to thrive in North Carolina," said **Secretary Copeland**. "Broad River Retail's new home in Four Oaks will serve as a great showcase for the industry along one of our busiest interstate routes."

In his remarks at the event today, Copeland also applauded Johnston County's leaders for their foresight and commitment in putting in place the necessary infrastructure to attract a project like Broad River's.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Johnston County](#), and the [Johnston County Economic Development Corporation](#).

[Read more.](#)



Artist rendering of the new campus for Broad River Retail in Four Oaks.

NCWorks Commission Adopts New Strategic Plan for Building a Job-ready

Cooper's leadership in welcoming us and facilitating our expansion. We made our decision to expand here specifically because of the favorable business development climate, the availability of skilled workers, and new partnerships that offer us real opportunities for growth and success. We hope to be a positive contributor to the economic well-being of North Carolina and Cumberland County as our future unfolds."

"Manufacturing companies of all sizes, making everything from jets to jelly beans find success in North Carolina," said **North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "E-N-G's new home in Fayetteville will prove to be a great move for the company as they expand their footprint here."

Secretary Copeland led the public event first announcing the project two weeks ago. The North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) were instrumental in supporting the company's decision.

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$43,558, higher than the Cumberland County average wage of \$36,425.

A performance-based grant of \$180,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate E-N-G's location of new operations in North Carolina.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Cumberland County](#), the [City of Fayetteville](#), the [Fayetteville Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation](#), and [North Carolina's Southeast](#).

[Read more.](#)



Food Manufacturer Expands in Montgomery County with \$23.8 Million Investment, 76 Jobs to Troy

AmeriQual Aseptic, a food processing company, will create 76 jobs as it expands its operations in Montgomery County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced May 23. The company will invest \$23.8 million in

Workforce

The NCWorks Commission approved a new two-year strategic plan and certified local Career Centers while meeting at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington on May 15.

The strategic plan, entitled ["Preparing North Carolina's Workforce for Today and Tomorrow."](#) is aligned with Governor Roy Cooper's "NC Job Ready" initiative.

"Our strategic plan will guide our efforts to continue to develop the workforce that North Carolina needs in order to strengthen our employers, attract new businesses and adapt to a changing economy," said Tom Rabon, chair of the NCWorks Commission, a 33-member panel that includes the business community, state workforce agencies, educators and community leaders. The Commission is designated as the state's workforce development board under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Four major goals form the basis of the strategic plan. These goals are to:

- Prepare workers to succeed in the North Carolina economy by increasing skills and education attainment;
- Create a workforce system that is responsive to the needs of the economy by fostering employer leadership;
- Promote replication of creative solutions to challenging workforce problems by supporting local innovation; and
- Promote workforce system access, alignment, integration and modernization.

[Read more.](#) and [review the strategic plan.](#)



PEMMCO Manufacturing's machining operations in Asheboro.

Strong State Support for N.C. Exporters Wins National Recognition

North Carolina companies who grow their businesses by selling into international markets receive strong support from the State of North Carolina's international trade team.

The superior quality of the state's support for its exporters was recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce in a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. recently. The President's "E" Award for Export Service was announced May 23.

expanding its current facility, located in Troy.

"Today's announcement is the latest example of a manufacturer finding success doing business in North Carolina and expanding their footprint here," **Governor Cooper** said. "For companies like AmeriQual, our strong economy and top-flight workforce make the decision simple."

AmeriQual Aseptic is a high-quality food manufacturer that develops, processes, produces, packages and distributes shelf-stable foods. AmeriQual Aseptic will manufacture high-quality protein beverages using practices that prevent contamination. Their current operations in North Carolina include Carolina Dairy, which manufactures yogurt-based products in Biscoe, and Wright Foods, an aseptic food processor in Troy.

"We are very excited about the new operation in Troy," said **Jon Geisler, Executive Vice Chairman of AmeriQual Group Holdings, LLC.** "Our mission is to be the leading producer of high-quality shelf stable products in the United States. This new facility gives us critical capacity to serve the rapidly expanding aseptic beverage segment."

"North Carolina is the second largest state for food processing," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland.** "With a great supply chain and excellent, low-cost business environment, AmeriQual Aseptic made a great decision to expand in Montgomery County."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but the average annual wage will be \$42,561. The average annual wage in Montgomery County is \$35,919.

A performance-based grant of \$500,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate AmeriQual Aseptic's new operation in North Carolina.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Montgomery Community College](#), [Montgomery County](#), and [Montgomery County's Economic Development Office](#).

[Read more.](#)



PEMMCO Manufacturing in Asheboro is one of the company's benefiting from an export strategy. The company says international sales growth is one reason the company launched a plant expansion that is adding 20 new jobs to PEMMCO's current 90-person workforce.

"We're now selling our parts to a European multinational manufacturer of aircraft seating that we met at the Aircraft Interiors Expo in Hamburg two years ago, and that is absolutely part of why we're growing," said Rick Powell, president of the precision-machining company that serves the aerospace, automotive, and other industries.

The state's international trade team, housed at the Economic Development Partnership of N.C.(EDPNC), helped PEMMCO secure federal funding to offset travel costs to the Hamburg show, where the team coordinated the trade exhibit booth featuring PEMMCO and other North Carolina businesses. PEMMCO has also participated in the state exhibits at major events such as the Paris Air Show and the Dubai Airshow.

In 2018, the state's trade team assisted 592 North Carolina businesses in 94 counties with exporting, including helping more than 140 companies participate in 32 international trade shows or events in 16 countries. Those nearly 600 businesses reported \$958 million in foreign sales in 2018 connected to state support. That's almost a 30 percent increase over export value reported by EDPNC clients in 2015.

To connect companies in your region with the state's export experts, [contact the international trade team at the EDPNC.](#)

New Grant Opportunity for Appalachian Communities

Local government officials and other local groups in 29 western North Carolina counties can take advantage of a new funding opportunity from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

\$29 million is available through a new Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative. The Commission announced the opportunity last week, in partnership with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

"This is an important opportunity for communities across Appalachia. I encourage eligible communities to apply for this funding that, along with our NC Job Ready initiative, can support education and job training," said **Governor Roy Cooper**, who is serving this year as the States' Co-Chair of the Commission.

The ARC effort will implement innovative approaches to provide enhanced training and support activities to dislocated workers, new entrants in the workforce, incumbent workers, and individuals affected by substance use disorder returning to work. Successful awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$2.5 million, will support workforce development activities that prepare eligible participants for good jobs in high-demand occupations aligned with a state, regional, or community economic development strategy.

More information is available at the [N.C. Commerce website, including a link to the program's application form.](#)

On Our Radar

- [EVENT: Medical, Biomedical & Biodefense: Support to the Warfighter Symposium](#) (North Carolina Military Business Center - June 11-12 • The Friday Conference Center • Chapel Hill)
- [DEADLINE: Window for Applying for CDBG-DR Funding for Hurricane Matthew Damage Closes Friday, May 31](#) (North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency)

N.C. in the News

- [Montgomery business expands, to add 76 jobs in Troy](#) *Courier-Times* - Asheboro - May 22)
- [Here's why Novo Nordisk is committing to renewable energy with solar farm in NC](#) *WRAL TechWire* - May 22)
- [Honda Aircraft Company to invest \\$16 million into expanding US production](#) *Robotics & Automation News*

facility
May 22)

- [BofA closing rural branches amid shifting trends in how clients are banking](#)
Charlotte Business Journal - May 21)

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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