

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



Textile Firm to Create 260 Jobs in Winston-Salem

HPFABRICS, Inc., a manufacturer of raw fabrics, has selected Forsyth County for a new production and product development facility, creating 260 jobs over three years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 19. The company plans to invest \$1.1 million over the next two years in a plant in Winston-Salem that formerly housed Microfibres, a company no longer operating in the city.

"North Carolina offers the skilled workforce companies need to succeed," Governor Cooper said. "The specialized experience our workers bring to the table is known around the world, and that stellar reputation played an important role in the company's decision to come to our state."

HPFABRICS is a subsidiary of Tukek Holdings, A.S., headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey. The holding company maintains manufacturing outposts around the world. The Winston-Salem facility will play an important connecting role in the Tukek global production network while producing raw fabrics for a variety of commercial and consumer goods, including upholstery. The company expects to create additional jobs and investment at the facility over a five-year period.

"It's a pleasure to see an idle facility come to life again, opening new opportunities for North Carolina's talented workers," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**.

The new positions in Forsyth County will provide a payroll impact of more than \$8.2 million annually to the local economy.

"This investment will help Tukek to strengthen its global position in the flocking industry while bringing the lost jobs back and creating much more than what Microfibres had to offer at its best years," said Rafet Tukek, the president of HPFABRICS and Tukek Holding, A.S. "This investment will also strengthen



A Ventura Coach commercial bus.

Governor Cooper Announces 61 New Jobs in Robeson County

Ventura Coach Corp and a related company, Absolute Bus, will create 61 new jobs with an expansion in Robeson County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 21. The manufacturer of commercial shuttle buses plans to invest \$2 million for an upgrade of its facilities in Lumberton.

"New jobs could not come at a better time for Robeson County, where families and businesses are still recovering from Hurricane Matthew and its historic floods," Governor Cooper said. "North Carolina is proud to attract growing companies like Ventura Coach, thanks to our winning combination of dedicated workers, robust transportation networks, and lower shipping costs."

Ventura Coach Corp builds and customizes shuttle buses. Ventura Coach is one of the few bus manufacturers that builds onto a full truck cab, which provides more strength and durability to the overall bus. Ventura bus bodies also feature contoured sides for better aerodynamics in crosswinds.

"We welcome Ventura Coach's decision to expand in North Carolina, which will bring new jobs to an area hard-hit by Hurricane Matthew," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**.

"It's been eighteen years since the second largest shuttle bus manufacturer in the nation left the southeast," said Craig Hartman, CEO for Ventura Coach Corp. "Today as demand

trade between Turkey and the United States of America and will be one of the first manufacturing-related direct investments made by a Turkish company into the United States economy."

A performance-based grant of \$250,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate HPFABRICS' location to Forsyth County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Forsyth County](#), the [City of Winston-Salem](#), and [Winston-Salem Business Inc.](#)

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Commerce Deputy Secretary Will Miller (center) and the team from North Carolina at the state's Paris Air Show exhibit.

Team Showcases North Carolina at the Paris Air Show

Commerce Deputy Secretary Will Miller led a North Carolina team to the Paris Air Show last week, showcasing the state's many advantages for the aerospace industry. The biennial event, the biggest trade show of its kind, attracted more than 150,000 industry participants. The Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) organized the state's presence at the event.

North Carolina was one of 19 states working the air show, the highest-profile event in this competitive industry sector.

Industry and economic development allies from eight organizations joined the state's exhibit, including:

- Charlotte Regional Partnership
- CR Onsrud
- Greensboro Chamber of Commerce
- Latitude Aero
- Monroe-Union County Economic Development
- PEMMCO
- SV America
- StarHaven Aerospace

In addition to the state's trade show exhibit, the delegation

has risen to an all-time high, it is time to bring these jobs back to the south. As we grow, the industry will attract many new vendors to the area. This is just the beginning."

A performance-based grant of \$200,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Ventura Coach Corp's expansion in Robeson County.

The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require a matching grant from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

While compensation will vary by position, average salaries for the new jobs associated with the OneNC grant will be \$30,100, in line with the current average annual wage in Robeson County of \$30,280.

[North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) were joined by other key partners in the expansion project, including the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Small Business and Technology Development Center \(SBTDC\)](#), [Robeson County](#) and the [Robeson County Office of Economic Development](#)

[Read more.](#)

Rural Communities Will Receive \$4.5 Million to Support Economic Growth

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 14 grant requests on June 22, totaling \$4,528,942. The requests include commitments to create a total of 94 new jobs. An additional 158 new jobs associated with these grants had been previously announced.

"The Rural Infrastructure Authority's grants create jobs and help communities become better positioned for economic growth," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "These investments improve infrastructure and support projects that will make our rural communities even more attractive to businesses and the employees they want to recruit and retain."

"The Rural Division was established to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of North Carolinians, particularly those in rural areas," said **Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development Napoleon Wallace**. "Today's grants demonstrate the many tools we have to make our rural communities attractive to business."

engaged in a number of one-on-one meetings with senior industry executives.

Snack Foods Company Will Create 60 Jobs with New Venture in Wayne County

Stormberg Foods, LLC., a producer of meat protein snacks, will locate its first United States production facility in Wayne County, creating 60 jobs over three years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 22. The company plans to invest \$2.48 million in Goldsboro.

"North Carolina works hard to attract international companies, and they quickly come to appreciate both our friendly business climate and our warm and welcoming people," Governor Cooper said. "These new jobs are especially welcome as Wayne County works to recover from the damage of Hurricane Matthew."

Stormberg Foods, LLC is a new venture in the United States for a market-leading South African company based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The company's mainstay product is a meat-based snack similar to beef jerky, known as biltong. The treat is an all-natural, gluten-free snack with no added sugar. The company distributes its products under several popular brand names.

"Stormberg Foods is the latest international manufacturer to decide North Carolina is the ideal base to reach North American markets," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "We welcome them to our state."

N.C. Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. were instrumental in supporting the company's location search and final decision.

The new positions in Wayne County will provide a payroll impact of nearly \$1.9 million each year to the local economy

"North Carolina offers several compelling factors that made our decision relatively simple," said Gary Moorcroft, CEO for Stormberg Foods. "The state's central location on the east coast provides easy access to markets, a major plus for us. We found the cost of establishing production facilities to be very reasonable. Add a stable labor force, with agricultural processing experience too. The support from the state, city, county and other agencies has been very impressive. These folk simply cannot do enough for you! We are certain we have made an excellent choice in Wayne County and the state of North Carolina."

A performance-based grant of \$125,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Stormberg Foods' location to Wayne County.

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

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In the latest round of grants, the RIA approved one grant from the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program in Surry County.

The RIA approved two requests under the state's Economic Infrastructure program, one in Jackson County and one in the City of Marion in McDowell County.

Grants under the state's federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development program were made to the towns, cities, and communities of Ayden, Lexington, Henderson, Reidsville and Alexander County.

Under the state's Building Reuse program, the RIA approved six grants in locations statewide.

Details on each of the RIA awarded projects is [available online](#).



Dr. John Hardin addresses guests attending the relocation ceremony in Rocky Mount on Friday, June 16.

Commerce Joins Celebration for Envolve Vision's Headquarters Relocation to Rocky Mount Mills

Dr. John Hardin, Executive Director of Commerce's Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation, participated in an announcement that Envolve Vision will relocate its operational headquarters to the Rocky Mount Mills campus, a 150-acre mixed use development on the Tar River.

The event was held Friday, June 16.

In his remarks, Dr. Hardin congratulated participants on the announcement and noted that Rocky Mount Mills is the type of environment where innovative companies, like Envolve, want to live, work, and play. "The story we're seeing unfold today is about better products, better working conditions, more economic growth, and ultimately - more higher-paying jobs," stated Hardin.

Video of the celebration event is available [online](#).

Elsewhere: [Company to Relocate to Mills \(Rocky Mount Telegram\)](#)

N.C. in the News

- [Scotland, NC promoted at foreign investment summit](#) (*The Laurinburg Exchange* - June 26)
- [Mills to host business roundtable](#) (*Rocky Mouth Telegram* - June 26)
- [Officials expect Thomas to fill void at TransPark](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville- June 25)
- [Duke Energy Selects 6 Sites for Readiness Program](#) (*Zacks.com* - June 21)
- [RowanWORKS welcomes new CEO](#) (*Salisbury Post* - June 16)
- [Novo Nordisk tops off \\$2B expansion in Clayton](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - June 16)
- [CSX unveils new details about massive North Carolina terminal project](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - June 14)

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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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