

syncTM Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



1,237 Jobs Announced in Cary as HCL Expands

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced September 18 that HCL Technologies Ltd (HCL), a leading global IT services provider will be expanding its presence in Wake County. The company plans to expand its existing center and create an additional 1,237 jobs in Cary by the end of 2018. [Anna Lea Moore](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

As part of its strategy to accelerate innovation and further enhance satisfaction for its clients, HCL sees Cary as a strategic talent hub in the Americas and will invest approximately \$9 million in expanding the center. The company continues to invest in its global delivery footprint in order to enhance value for its clients by developing nearshore capabilities.

"HCL has been steadily building its Wake County presence and one reason is the incredible talent pool the Triangle region has to offer IT companies," Governor McCrory said. "Providing a well-trained and motivated workforce that meets the real-world needs of employers is evidence of the importance that North Carolina puts on helping employers grow."

"North Carolina has worked hard to establish itself as one of the leading states in the IT industry and we are getting results," said Secretary Decker. "As North Carolina continues to grow its non-traditional industries, we will see more companies like HCL choose North Carolina."

HCL will hire computer professionals to develop, maintain and upgrade software applications and provide services to global clients. Salaries will vary by job function and experience, but the average annual payroll for the new jobs is expected to be nearly \$64 million.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: Economic Development Partnership of N.C., the NC



Secretary Decker, in Tokyo last week, visits a retail store selling North Carolina pork products

Japan in Focus as Decker Wraps up Business Development Trip

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker returned to Raleigh over the weekend following a busy week of business development meetings in Japan, North Carolina's fourth largest trading partner and the source for more than 3,000 jobs announced in the state since 2010.

Decker also represented North Carolina at the high-profile Southeast U.S./Japan Annual Joint Meeting, promoting the state's advantages as a business location in remarks delivered Friday morning (Sept. 19) at the conference's opening ceremony. The conference, now in its 37th year, provides Japanese business and government leaders with the opportunity to learn about investment and trade opportunities in North Carolina and six other states in the Southeastern United States. Atsutoshi Nishida, former Chief Executive Officer of the Toshiba Corporation and co-chairman of the conference, invited Secretary Decker to Japan on behalf of the

Community College System, Wake Technical Community College, NC Works, Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Duke University, NC A&T University, NC State University, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC Technology Association, The Town of Cary, Cary Chamber of Commerce and Wake County Economic Development.

[Read more.](#)



Intermodal facility in Charlotte

Governor McCrory Unveils 25-Year Vision for Transportation

Governor Pat McCrory and Transportation Secretary Tony Tata unveiled the Governor's 25-Year Vision for transportation in North Carolina September 17 with a cross-state tour that included stops in Wilmington, Greenville, Winston-Salem and Asheville to detail the challenges faced by and solutions proposed for each of the state's four major regions: coastal, eastern, central and western, as well as comprehensive solutions for the entire state.

The plan can be reviewed online at www.ncvision25.gov.

"Transportation is the backbone of our state's economy, and investing in transportation solutions will help expand opportunities and create jobs," Governor McCrory said. "Companies want to invest where they know there is a strong vision for moving people and products and that is why we have made this strategic vision a priority."

The 25-year vision builds on the foundation established by the Strategic Transportation Investments law passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor McCrory last summer. The law changes the way North Carolina funds and prioritizes major transportation projects, allowing the state to make the best possible use of its existing resources over a 10-year period.

[Read more.](#)

Japanese-based association that hosted this year's meeting.

Japan is an important economic partner for North Carolina, both as a market for North Carolina made products and as a source for foreign direct investment into the state. In 2013, North Carolina exports to Japan totaled \$1.67 billion. Chemicals, food, and beverage and tobacco products were the top three export industries in the state. Japan places fourth in market rank for North Carolina exports, following Canada, Mexico and China.

North Carolina has attracted major investments by some of Japan's best-known multinational firms, including Bridgestone, Honda, Hitachi, Toshiba, Aisin AW, Denso, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Sumitomo Electric, and Kyocera. Since 2010, North Carolina has attracted \$982 million in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan. 3,166 North Carolina jobs were created from Japanese FDI since 2010, ranking 8th in the United States.

[Read more.](#)



avidxchange

Software Company to Add 603 Jobs in Mecklenburg County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced September 18 that AvidXchange will expand its headquarters operations in Charlotte. The company plans to create 603 jobs in Mecklenburg County by the end of 2018 and invest more than \$21.4 million.

[Uconda Dunn](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"AvidXchange is one of North Carolina's great homegrown success stories," said Governor McCrory. "Over the last 14 years it has gone from being run from the founder's basement to one of the top businesses in its industry. It is another great example of the business opportunity North Carolina offers."

AvidXchange was founded in 2000 in Charlotte and has more than 300 full-time



Secretary Decker delivering remarks August 21 at the North Carolina Rail Road board meeting

Decker Briefs N.C. Rail Board

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker delivered remarks August 21 outlining the future of economic development in the state at a board of directors meeting of the North Carolina Railroad Company.

The North Carolina Railroad, which celebrated its 165th anniversary earlier this year, is the oldest continuously-operating corporation in the state and is an ongoing catalyst for economic development.

Decker briefed board members on the new Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina and the transition of the sales and marketing functions that will be handled by the new organization. Decker noted the new organization will replace a fractured statewide economic development strategy with an integrated approach focused on collaboration with allies such as the rail company.

N.C. Again Taking Applications to Match Federal SBIR Grants

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced September 22 that applications are now being accepted under the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 solicitation of the One North Carolina Small Business Matching Funds Program. This program provides funding to help small businesses develop and commercialize innovative new technologies.

Under the Matching Funds Program, the State of North Carolina will issue a matching grant of up to \$50,000 to businesses that have been awarded highly competitive federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants. SBIR and STTR grants are the single largest source of early stage technology development and commercialization funding for small businesses - more than \$2.5 billion annually.

"These grants allow more of North Carolina's small businesses to conduct the innovative research and technology development that is critical to the future growth of our state's economy," said Secretary Decker. "This program further ensures that North Carolina is well positioned to remain a top competitor in the global marketplace."

employees in North Carolina, New Jersey and Georgia. The company helps small to medium-sized businesses automate their accounts payable process. In August, AvidXchange was recognized by Inc. magazine as one of the country's fastest growing private companies for the fourth consecutive year and the 20th fastest growing company in the Charlotte metro area.

"One of our top priorities in North Carolina is to work with our existing industries to help them grow and prosper here," said Secretary Decker. "AvidXchange's phenomenal growth proves that should continue to be one of our key strategies to building North Carolina's economy."

"AvidXchange is deeply rooted in the Queen City, and as we continue to prosper, it is important for us to grow and contribute to the city that has supported us from our days as a small startup to the Inc. 5000's 20th fastest-growing company within the Charlotte metro area," said Michael Praeger, CEO of AvidXchange. "We are thrilled to announce that Charlotte will be the headquarters for our new and expanding corporate campus and are excited about the hundreds of technology jobs and world-class talent that we will bring to the city. It is my hope that we can help Charlotte become a leader of innovation much like the Silicon Valley."

As part of its expansion, AvidXchange will be making improvements to its current facility as well as constructing additional buildings on its campus.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: NC Community College System, NC Works, Mecklenburg County, City of Charlotte, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte Center City Partners and Economic Development Partnership of N.C.

[Read more.](#)

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Jan. 1 - September 22, 2014

New projects assigned:	243
Projects announced:	82
Jobs announced:	9,176
Capital investment	

North Carolina is among a handful of forward-thinking states with a matching program to leverage these federal funds and help homegrown businesses commercialize innovative technologies and create jobs. South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia all modeled their programs after North Carolina's.

Since its inception in 2006, the program has enabled nearly 200 small businesses throughout the state to create or retain more than 485 high-wage, high-skill private sector jobs; develop and commercialize hundreds of technologies in sectors such as medical devices, computer software, military technologies, energy, and textiles; generate a 9-to-1 return on the state dollar through attracting more than \$85 million in external private investment and more than \$73 million in follow-on federal funds; and generate more than \$60 million in annual sales directly related to the products and services developed and commercialized with state matching support.

The North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation administers these grants. The 2014-15 Solicitation for the Program as well as program information, application instructions, and supporting materials are posted on the Board's website at www.nccommerce.com/sti

announced:	\$1.1B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	480
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	12,959

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Direct Flights Needed to Asia, says Commerce Chief](#) (*WCNC-TV* - September 23)
- [Duke Energy commits \\$500 million to N.C. solar power expansion](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - September 15)
- [New technology drives job growth, expansion at GKN Driveline in Newton](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - September 12)

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