



Governor Pat McCrory speaks at a ceremony announcing Avadim's Buncombe County expansion.

Gov. McCrory Announces 551-Job Expansion in Buncombe County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) announced September 21 that Avadim Technologies Inc. will launch a major expansion at its operations in Buncombe County, creating 551 jobs over the next five years. Avadim is a life sciences company addressing infection prevention, neuromuscular disorders and barrier repair.

Avadim will invest nearly \$20.4 million in its North Carolina expansion over the five-year period.

"Great companies are born in North Carolina and great companies grow here," said **Governor McCrory**. "Avadim Technologies' significant expansion adds an exciting new dimension to our biotechnology industry and to the economy of western North Carolina. Our state continues to attract global competition because of our improved business climate, highly skilled workforce and quality of life that is second to none."

Inc. magazine ranked Avadim Technologies No. 234 on its list of the 500 fastest-growing U.S. companies for 2016. The company currently employs 106 people across the United States.

"North Carolina's superior talent, engaged universities and unbeatable business climate will support Avadim as it executes this significant expansion, said **Secretary Skvarla**. "Avadim's growth in Buncombe County is further evidence that pioneering



Corning Optical Communications Regional Engineering Manager Don Hefner (left) receives a commemorative wooden bowl from Gov. McCrory at the expansion ceremony in Hickory.

Corning to Launch 205-Job Expansion in North Carolina

Corning Optical Communications, a worldwide provider of fiber optic communications solutions for voice, data and video networks, will expand operations at its North Carolina facilities in Hickory and Winston-Salem. The company plans to add 205 jobs and invest nearly \$83.5 million in the state over the next five years.

Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement yesterday (September 26).

"This expansion will build on the more than 300,000 new jobs added in North Carolina since 2013 and will further support our position as one of the fastest growing economies in the nation," said **Governor McCrory**. "Corning's decision to further invest in North Carolina is a testament to our highly-skilled workforce, access to markets and improving business climate."

"Corning is in its 45th year of delivering high-performance fiber optic solutions to global network operators," said **Clark S. Kinlin, executive vice president, Corning Optical Communications**. "This long history in North Carolina - and our planned expansions - would not be possible without the ongoing support of local, county, and state government entities. This decision is a win/win for the Hickory and Winston-Salem communities and for our highly skilled, diverse, and dedicated employees who work and live there."

life sciences businesses are thriving in every corner of our state."

"As a lifelong resident of Buncombe County, it was important to me that our business expansion happen right at home," said **Stephen Woody, Chairman & CEO of Avadim**. "Avadim will not only contribute to the health and well-being of individuals by addressing gaps in global health including infection, neuromuscular disorders and wound care, but also this expansion will contribute to our economy by continuing to cultivate a vibrant life sciences sector and spur jobs in western North Carolina."

Avadim's expansion in Buncombe County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The company is eligible to receive up to \$4.9 million in total reimbursements in annual installments over 12 years - pending verification by N.C. Commerce and N.C. Revenue that the company has met incremental job creation and investment targets. In addition, as much as \$1.63 million in new funds could be generated to support the state's Utility Account, a critical infrastructure fund that supports economic development in more economically challenged areas of the state.

Since Governor McCrory entered office in January 2013, the state's economy has generated more than 300,000 net new jobs.

Partnering with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [N.C. Transportation](#), [N.C. Revenue](#), [Golden Leaf Foundation](#), [Land of Sky Regional Council of Governments](#), [City of Asheville](#), [Buncombe County](#), and the [Asheville-Buncombe County Economic Development Coalition](#).

[Read more.](#)



Corning's expansion adds 105 people at its Hickory plant and 100 employees in Winston-Salem. While compensation will vary by position, the average yearly salary of Corning's new positions will be \$58,151. Overall annual wage levels in Catawba and Forsyth counties currently average \$38,238 and \$49,817, respectively

Corning's expansions in Catawba and Forsyth counties will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee. Corning is eligible to receive up to \$1.93 million in total reimbursements provided the company meets incremental job creation and investment targets. In addition, as much as \$643,000 in new funds may flow from the grant into the Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to help finance economic infrastructure in less populated counties.

"Corning's growth in North Carolina underscores the value of North Carolina's strong support for our existing businesses," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "In partnering with global manufacturers like Corning to connect with strategic business objectives, North Carolina wins jobs and investment that make our economy arguably the best-performing in the nation."

Numerous partners joined with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) in supporting Corning's expansion. They include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Catawba County](#), [Forsyth County](#), the [City of Hickory](#), the [City of Winston-Salem](#), the [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation](#), and the [Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce](#).

[Read more.](#)



U.K.-based Clinical Services Provider will Invest \$5.2 million, Create 79 Jobs in Durham

Governor Pat McCrory announced September 20 that Almac Group Inc. will expand its operations in the City of Durham, creating 79 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$5.2 million in its expansion there.

"North Carolina's improving business climate, talented workforce and role in life sciences contract research makes it the ideal location

(Left-right) EDPNC CEO Chris Chung, serving as North Carolina's Head of Delegation to the SEUS/Japan Conference alongside Glenn McCullough, Mississippi Development Authority and Randy Boyd, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

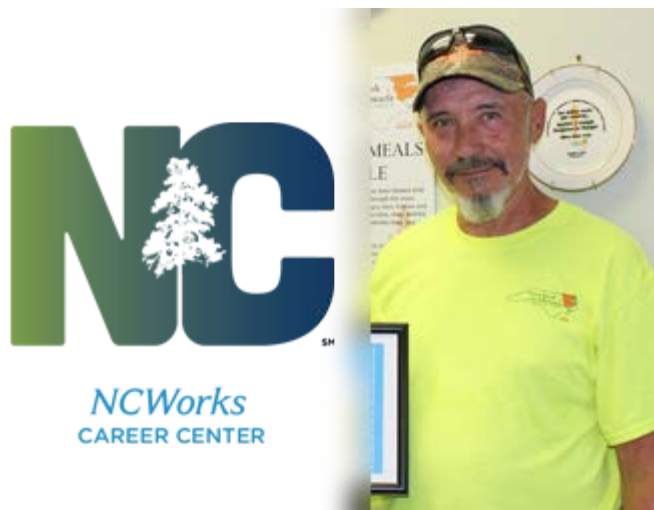
Japanese Business Development Trip Puts N.C. on the International Stage

North Carolina strengthened relationships and economic ties with Japan last week as state economic development and business officials concluded a series of meetings and high-profile events in the Pacific nation.

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) held an investment seminar for more than 80 Japanese business executives on Friday, September 16 in downtown Tokyo. CEO Chris Chung led potential investors through an extensive review of North Carolina's advantages for international companies aiming to enter the North American market. In addition, two Japanese firms already doing business in the state, HondaJet and the confectionary company Morinaga, offered persuasive testimonials to the state's strengths.

The following week, Chung led the state's delegation to the 39th Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan Conference. The SEUS/Japan conference, operating since 1976 remains one of the highest-potential opportunities to engage top Japanese business and government officials.

The conference, which rotates each year between Japan and southeast locations, will next convene in Greenville, South Carolina, October 22-24, 2017.



Glenn Teleky discovered an On-the-Job Training program at his local NCWorks Career Center.

NCWorks@Work: On-The-Job Training Closes the Gap to Success

After working in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) field for 20 years, **Glenn Teleky** faced a challenge - he was unable to find work. Following an injury on the job with a company in Virginia, he was let go after a period of extended recovery. His wife was also unemployed, and his family was receiving public assistance. So when he sought the help of his NCWorks Career Center, one thing was on his mind: could they really help him find a job?

for a company like Almac Group," said **Governor McCrory**. "Almac has bold plans for growing its clinical trials management businesses around the world, and they will do that from North Carolina's Research Triangle."

Headquartered in Craigavon, United Kingdom, Almac Group is a privately-held, global contract development and manufacturing organization providing a wide range of services to the worldwide biopharma industry. Almac employs over 4,500 individuals across facilities in Asia, Europe and North America. Its existing workforce in Durham totals 288.

"Almac Group joins a long list of contract research organizations that have made North Carolina a top destination for companies engaged in clinical trials," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "Nothing speaks more powerfully to the quality of our workforce and business climate than global companies like Almac announcing they will expand and hire here."

"Due to significant industry demand for our range of services it is essential we expand to ensure Almac can continue to compete at a global level," said **Alan Armstrong, CEO Almac Group**. "Our presence in Durham has experienced tremendous success and we are excited to make a further commitment to the area signifying our confidence in the pool of talent and skill right on our doorstep. We appreciate the support provided by both the state of North Carolina and the City of Durham and look forward to continued success in the region."

Almac Group's expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$77,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [N.C. Revenue](#), the [City of Durham](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#), and [Durham County](#).

[Read more.](#)

Wilmington to Host International Trade Conference in October

The North Carolina Foreign Trade Promotion Council (NC FTPC) will be hosting its third annual conference, October 12-13 in Wilmington.

The conference will offer North Carolina businesses the opportunity to learn:

At the career center, Teleky worked with a career advisor to assess his skills and determined that he needed additional training and financial assistance to help him accomplish his goals. Glenn decided to pursue a career in the trucking industry and was enrolled and approved for training at Carolina Trucking in Raleigh. Teleky successfully completed the training program and received his Class A Commercial Drivers License in October 2015.

License in hand, Teleky returned to the NCWorks Career Center in Chowan County to search for employment. Center staff helped him update his resume and provided referrals to open positions. In October 2015, his career advisor found a full-time truck driver position at the Food Bank of the Albemarle. Teleky interviewed for the position, but he did not have all of the skills the company required.

The story doesn't end there, however. Working with the Northeastern Workforce Development Board, the Food Bank did hire Teleky as part of the NCWorks On-the-Job Training program (OJT), in which he worked as a driver and warehouse worker and earned \$11.50/hour, not including benefits, health insurance, paid vacation, and sick leave.

Teleky successfully completed his OJT training in June 2016. His career center conducted a final evaluation of his skills and asked him for final comments. Teleky stated that he was pleased with his position, enjoyed the work and wanted to remain with the company. He once again expressed his appreciation for the assistance he received from the NCWorks Career Center.

"I appreciate and am pleasantly surprised that I was given the assistance that I needed to pursue a new career," said Teleky. "I would never have been able to complete my goals without WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) assistance."

NCWorks @ Work is a SYNC series highlighting success stories from North Carolina's integrated workforce development system. More information about [NCWorks](#) is online.



(Left-right) EDPNC's Jen Vogelsberg and Blake Jackman with Eduardo Salabert and Elaine Lockhead Castela of Thinline, Angelo Ponce of Lanart International, and Mark Gorges of High Speed Welders.

NC Companies Showcase Recreational Products at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City

More than 40 North Carolina companies recently exhibited at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market trade show in Salt Lake City, held August 2-6. The show is a key vehicle for reaching

- How their business can benefit from the new Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #214)
- Private sector trade financing, from \$1 up to millions.
- What experts are saying about the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

A senior official from the Japanese Embassy in Washington will address the impact and importance of the TPP agreement. A wide range of other consulate officials are scheduled to attend.



Registration is now open and more information is available online at ncftpc.com.

Western N.C. Downtowns Awarded \$272,000 in Grants for Wi-Fi

Governor Pat McCrory announced September 14 that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is awarding a total of \$272,000 to 10 western North Carolina communities that plan to offer free Wi-Fi access in their downtown areas.

"Connecting North Carolina communities and classrooms to Wi-Fi has been a central focus of our administration since day one," said **Governor McCrory**. "These grants build on our commitment to improve North Carolina's economy and education, and will help western North Carolina offer or expand Internet access for residents, students, entrepreneurs and visitors."

"Broadband access brings modern vitality to North Carolina's historic business districts," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "These investments will serve approximately 415 businesses and attract visitors. Wi-Fi is also a critical resource for secondary and post-secondary students in these communities who may not have high-speed Internet access at home."

A complete list of the communities receiving grants is [available online](#).

N.C. in the News

- [State budget director tells Lumberton club economy is strong](#) (*The Robesonian* - Lumberton - September 21)
- [Walnut Cove to receive Wi-Fi assistance](#) (*Stokes News* - September 21)
- [The East boasts a burgeoning craft brewery business](#) (*WNCT-TV* - September 20)

buyers and distributors in a variety of offshore markets.

Summer Market hosts more than 1,200 exhibitors from over 50 countries, and the show draws more than 27,000 industry professionals from around the world for five days of buying, previews, demos, strategic meetings, trend presentations, education and networking with buyers who shape the outdoor market. This particular trade show is widely considered the most powerful buying event in the outdoor industry with more quality brands, cutting edge technologies and emerging trends than at any other single outdoor industry event.

The North Carolina companies in attendance included Misty Mountain Threadworks from Banner Elk, Lanart International from Huntersville, High Speed Welders from Wilmington, and Thinline from Durham.

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina's **Business Development Manager Blake Jackman** led the effort to facilitate North Carolina exports and to assist the companies in fostering new partnerships in the outdoor market. Four North Carolina companies exhibited with direct support from the EDPNC's International Trade Division and the North Carolina State Trade Expansion Program (STEP).



To assist companies in your market with exporting and growing sales internationally, contact the [International Trade team at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.](#)

- [Grants for public Wi-Fi issued](#) (*The News Herald* - Morganton - September 19)
- [WNC communities receive \\$1.8M in grants](#) (*Citizen-Times* - Asheville - September 15)
- [More than half of Wilson employees live elsewhere](#) (*Wilson Times* - September 8)

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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