

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



N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland at the BioAgilytix project announcement on October 29.

Gov. Cooper Announces 878 New Jobs as BioAgilytix Chooses Durham for Major Expansion

BioAgilytix Labs, LLC, a leading life science testing company, will create 878 jobs and invest \$61.5 million in Durham, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 29. The project marks a major expansion of the contract research organization's operations in North Carolina's Research Triangle region.

"North Carolina is a world-class location for companies that lead in research and development to treat and prevent diseases like the coronavirus," said **Governor Cooper**. "Companies like BioAgilytix expand here because they know North Carolina can provide the skilled workers and the stable business environment they need to succeed even during a global health crisis."

BioAgilytix was founded in Durham in 2008 and maintains its headquarters there, while also operating laboratory locations in



Secretary Copeland at the socially-distanced announcement event for Nuvotronics October 30

Global Technology Manufacturer to Expand Durham Operations with Five Year, \$50 Million Investment

Nuvotronics, an advanced technology manufacturer of microelectronics components and subsystems, will create 150 jobs in Durham County, **North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 30. The company will invest \$50 million over five years to increase their manufacturing footprint and production capabilities in Durham to support projected growth in the business.

"The expansion of this innovative company signals once again about North Carolina's resistance during the pandemic," said **Governor Cooper**. "Our advanced manufacturing and technology workforce will help them meet their goals."

Nuvotronics produces microfabricated radio frequency (RF) products. Nuvotronics develops accelerated innovation initiatives across the company's technology portfolio with its award-winning PolyStrata® Technology, an innovative 3D microcoax architecture. Nuvotronics' success drives the need for additional manufacturing capacity to meet the growing demands of its customers.

"This is an exciting time of growth for Nuvotronics," said **Martin Amen, vice president and general manager, Nuvotronics**. "We have established and grown our advanced, innovative process through multiple research and development efforts here in the U.S. Our products truly revolutionize microelectronics solutions and

the Cambridge area of Massachusetts and Hamburg, Germany. The company specializes in large molecule bioanalysis and provides a wide portfolio of services supporting the development and release testing of biologics across a number of industries and disease states. Recently, BioAgilytix announced plans to launch COVIDence, a platform to provide employers a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program. The new expansion in North Carolina will help the company meet increased demand from its customer base of the world's top pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

"Through great cooperation with the state, led by Governor Cooper and Secretary Copeland, our decision was swayed to invest tens of millions of dollars into expanding our team and facilities in Durham County," said **Jim Datin, President and CEO of BioAgilytix**. "Also, but more importantly, the area is rich with life sciences expertise and a great place to live. Since our founding, this access to exceptional talent has enabled us to thrive in North Carolina."



The North Carolina Biotechnology Center hosted the socially-distanced event for BioAgilytix.

"North Carolina invented the Contract Research Organization model, an innovation that revolutionized the process of drug discovery and development," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "BioAgilytix's expansion validates our state's continued relevance for this important sector of the life science industry."

Although wages will vary by job position, the aggregate average salary will reach \$96,477, bringing a payroll impact of \$84.7 million to the region each and every year. The current average wage in Durham County of \$71,756.

BioAgilytix's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee. Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$2.8 billion. Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$18,885,000, spread over 12 years. Over the 12 years, those state tax revenues will exceed \$58.8 million.

State payments only occur following performance verification by the departments of Commerce and Revenue that the company has met its incremental job creation and investment targets. JDIG projects result in positive net tax revenue to the state treasury, even after taking into consideration the grant's reimbursement payments to a given company.

BioAgilytix's JDIG agreement also could move as much as

our expansion is driven by the demand for smaller packages with better performance."

"Innovation brings market-leading companies to North Carolina and supports their success at every stage of growth," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**.

"Nuvotronics' expansion in Durham highlights the assets that facilitate next-generation technologies and solutions, starting with our engaged colleges and universities."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce led the state's efforts to support Nuvotronics' decision to expand its operations in North Carolina. The company's 150 new jobs will include engineers, technicians, operators, managers, and administrative support staff. The average expected annual salary for all new positions is \$72,867, creating a payroll impact of more than \$10.9 million per year. Durham County's overall average annual wage is \$71,756.

Nuvotronics' expansion will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the 150 new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$1,173,750 spread over 12 years.

Because Nuvotronics is expanding in Durham County, classified by the state's economic tier system as Tier 3, the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$391,250 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.

The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business. Even when new jobs are created in a Tier 3 county such as Durham, the new tax revenue generated through JDIG grants helps more economically challenged communities elsewhere in the state.

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](#), [Durham County](#), the [City of Durham](#), and the [Durham Chamber of Commerce](#).

Expansion by Steel Fabricator Will Bring 28 New Jobs to Perquimans County

East Coast Steel Fabrication, Inc. will add 28 jobs to its production operations in Perquimans County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 28. The privately held company, which provides heavy steel fabrication for barges and marine structures, will expand its facility in Hertford, where it will

\$6,295,000 into the state's Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account for use by rural communities elsewhere in the state. The Utility Account helps finance necessary infrastructure upgrades in more economically challenged areas of the state to attract future business.

Partnering with the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Durham County](#), and the [Durham Chamber of Commerce](#).



Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia Announce Offshore Wind Energy Agreement

Governor Roy Cooper joined the governors of Maryland and Virginia on October 29 to announce a three-state collaboration to advance offshore wind projects in the region and promote the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic United States as a hub for offshore wind energy and industry.

The creation of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (SMART-POWER) provides a framework for the three states to cooperatively promote, develop, and expand offshore wind energy and the accompanying industry supply chain and workforce. Specifically, the three states agree to form a SMART-POWER Leadership Team with representatives from each signatory jurisdiction that will work to streamline the development of regional offshore wind resources.

"Maryland has been leading the charge when it comes to real, bipartisan, common sense solutions and we are proud to continue setting an example for the nation of bold environmental leadership," said **Maryland Governor Larry Hogan**. "Joining this multi-state partnership to expand offshore wind development will further our strong record of supporting responsible energy projects that provide jobs, clean air benefits, and energy independence."

As Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states become a focus for offshore wind developers and supply chain companies, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia recognize that the fast-growing, global offshore wind industry has significant potential to drive economic development and job creation as well as reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and other harmful air pollutants. According to the United State Department of Energy, the Atlantic Coast offshore wind project pipeline is estimated to support up to 86,000 jobs, \$57 billion in investments, and provide up to \$25 billion in economic output by 2030.

invest \$482,202.

"This expansion shows North Carolina is place where businesses want to build their future," said **Governor Cooper**. "Companies like East Coast Steel Fabrication continue to choose our state for expansion because we have the workforce and stability, even in a pandemic, to help keep their business growing."

Founded in 2006 and based in Chesapeake, Va., East Coast Steel Fabrication designs and fabricates buildings, boats, barges and marine structures. Its six-employee operation in Hertford opened in 2019. The company, whose revenues average \$6 million annually, is a Certified Small, Women and Minority-Owned business. Its customer base spans the eastern U.S. and includes construction firms, dredging companies, state transportation departments and the U.S. military.

"East Coast Steel Fabrication, Inc. is excited to bring our operations to Hertford, North Carolina," said **Cynthia Overman, Vice President of East Coast Fabrication**. "As North Carolina residents, we realize the need for businesses in Northeastern North Carolina and the jobs that they bring. We are extremely thankful to the State of North Carolina and the County of Perquimans for their financial support in expanding our facilities. We hope this will bring many opportunities for surrounding counties and their residents and look forward to the years ahead."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce led a team of partners in supporting East Coast Steel Fabrications' decision to expand its North Carolina operations. Annual salaries of the new jobs will average \$44,807, creating an annual payroll impact for the community of nearly \$1.26 million per year. As part of its expansion, East Coast Steel Fabrication will hire welders, managers, clerical staff and other positions.

"Northeastern North Carolina is the ideal home for companies like East Coast Steel Fabrication, whose expansion means that the region will continue building on its marine trades and services sector," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Competitive costs, modern infrastructure, convenient market access and excellent workforce assets make every corner of our state appealing for growing businesses."

A performance-based grant of \$60,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate East Coast Steel Fabrication's expansion in North Carolina. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and create jobs. Companies

"Offshore wind development combined with our strong solar capacity will bring more high paying, clean energy jobs to North Carolina while we continue to ramp up our fight against climate change," said **North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper**. "This bipartisan agreement with neighboring states allows us to leverage our combined economic power and ideas to achieve cost effective success."

Through this partnership, the three states have committed to work together to increase regulatory certainty, encourage manufacturing of component parts, reduce project costs through supply chain development, share information and best practices, and promote synergy between industry and the signatory jurisdictions.

"Harnessing the power of offshore wind is key to meeting the urgency of the climate crisis and achieving 100 percent clean energy by 2050," said **Virginia Governor Ralph Northam**. "Virginia is well-positioned to scale up offshore wind development with a 12-megawatt wind demonstration project already built off our coast. This agreement will help unlock our collective offshore wind resources and generate tremendous economic and environmental benefits for the region. We look forward to working with our partners in Maryland and North Carolina to grow the offshore wind industry and secure a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient future."

Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia have access to vast resources and assets, such as deepwater ports and transportation infrastructure, top-tier universities and research institutions, and highly trained workforces to support the offshore wind industry and supply chain efficiently develop along the Atlantic Coast.

The full SMART-POWER [memorandum of understanding is available here](#).



Restaurants Can Apply for Commerce's Rent Relief Program Starting Thursday

Today (November 10), **Governor Roy Cooper** announced that starting November 12, full-service restaurants can apply for rent or mortgage interest relief from the N.C. Mortgage, Utility and Rent Relief program (MURR), administered by the Department of Commerce.

People interested in the MURR program can [register for a free educational webinar to be held on Thursday, November 12 at 9:00am](#).

The MURR program can provide up to \$20,000 in relief funds

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.

The [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) led a collaborative effort to facilitate East Coast Steel Fabrication's expansion. Other key partners in the project include [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority](#), and [Perquimans County](#).

On Our Radar

- [Register | New Webinar for Commerce's Mortgage, Utility, and Rent Relief Program with a focus on restaurants](#) (Thursday, November 12 - 9:00am - Registration Required)

N.C. in the News

- [Virus Relief Grant to Help in Part With Broadband in N.C.](#) (Government Technology - November 9)
- [Industry rankings give North Carolina high marks for business, tax climate](#) (Salisbury Post - November 8)
- [By the numbers: Largest job wins for North Carolina in 2020](#) (Triangle Business Journal - November 3)

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](#).

per qualifying business location. Business and nonprofit applicants from certain industry sectors that have not been able to operate during the COVID period may apply for up to two of their business locations.

Detailed information and application materials are available online at nccommerce.com/murr.

(919) 814-4600

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Building Location:
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Email the Editor](#) [SYNC archive](#)

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