



RED VENTURES

Tech Firm to Add 500 New Jobs in Mecklenburg County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced today (Dec. 8) that Red Ventures will expand its Mecklenburg County operations by adding 500 jobs over the next five years. The technology and marketing company plans to invest \$5 million at its facility in Charlotte over the same period.

"This great American success-story continues to grow its business and flourish in our state," said Governor McCrory. "By adding 500 new jobs, Red Ventures has shown that North Carolina has the workforce and business climate to grow and succeed."

Founded in 2000, Red Ventures is the country's largest technology-enabled platform for sales and marketing organizations. The privately-held company employs more than 2,800 people, including 544 in North Carolina. For each of the past eight years, Red Ventures has been named a "Best Place to Work in Charlotte" by the Charlotte Business Journal.

"This globally connected company could operate from anywhere," said Secretary Skvarla. "Red Ventures chose Charlotte for this expansion because it knows that nothing compares to North Carolina's technology talent, pro-business environment and exceptional quality of life."

Red Ventures will look to fill positions including software developers, analysts, I/T specialists and inside sales agents. The additional workforce will result in a payroll impact of nearly \$24.5 million annually.

"Our continued investment in the Charlotte region centers around attracting and retaining the best talent," said Ric Elias, CEO of Red Ventures. "We're excited to have established a partnership with the State of North Carolina that brings top-tier jobs and facilities to the region."

The project was made possible in part by an award to Red Ventures from the state Job Development Investment Grant

CORNING

Corning Optical Communications to Build New Headquarters in Mecklenburg County

Corning Optical Communications, LLC will create 150 new jobs in Mecklenburg County as part of a new corporate headquarters announced December 8. Optical Communications, a world-leading provider of fiber optic solutions, plans to invest \$38.7 million by the end of 2018.

"Corning is a global leader whose name has been prominent in North Carolina's business community for many years," said Governor Pat McCrory. "Today's announcement builds on the solid foundation this innovative company has in our state, and I am proud we emerged as the top choice for this important headquarters and the new jobs that come with it."

One of five business segments of Corning Incorporated (NYSE:GLW), Corning Optical Communications has more than 30 locations and 17,000 employees worldwide. The business employs more than 3,000 people across five locations in North Carolina, including two of the world's largest optical fiber manufacturing facilities in Concord and Wilmington, and two of the world's largest optical fiber cable manufacturing facilities in Hickory and Winston-Salem.

Corning scientists invented the first low-loss optical fiber in 1970. Today, Corning Optical Communications' portfolio of end-to-end fiber solutions enable nearly every wired and wireless connectivity need, connecting businesses, homes and people around the globe.

"Corning is a company that makes things that are ingrained in how we live and work, and their choice of North Carolina for continued job growth says all the right things about the quality of our people and our business climate," said Secretary Skvarla. "Corning is an integral part of North Carolina and we worked to keep it that way. This decision also positions the company to readily expand its operations in its other four locations in the

(JDIG) program. Payments under the award occur only after two state agencies, NC Commerce and NC Revenue, verify job creation and other performance measures. Under the terms of the company's JDIG, Red Ventures is eligible to receive up to \$2.65 million in total reimbursements over the 12-year life of the award.

JDIGs reimburse companies using a portion of the tax dollars generated by the newly-created jobs with the goal of increasing the overall tax benefit to the State of North Carolina. State law also requires a financial commitment to the project on the part of local government.

Red Ventures' JDIG will also result in as much as \$886,500 in new funding for the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to help finance economic infrastructure in less populated Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. When JDIGs are made to companies in more prosperous Tier 3 counties such as Mecklenburg, 25 percent of the award is directed to the IDF-Utility Fund.

Joining [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) in helping facilitate Red Ventures' expansion is the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Mecklenburg County](#), the [City of Charlotte](#), and the [Charlotte Chamber of Commerce](#).

Since Governor McCrory took office in January of 2013, North Carolina has witnessed the net creation of nearly 240,000 private sector jobs.

[Read more.](#)



Expansion by Premier Research Brings 260 Jobs to Durham

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced December 1 that Premier Research will bring 260 new jobs to Durham under a five-year expansion plan. The contract research organization plans to invest over \$4.1 million at its Durham County location through 2020.

"Premier Research brings an innovative edge to the development of new drugs and treatments through its world-class science and customer-focused business models," said Governor McCrory. "I'm proud this growing company has chosen North Carolina's Research Triangle for its new

state."

The new positions at Corning Optical Communications will average more than \$80,000. Mecklenburg County's average annual wage is \$59,882.

"Corning's plan to locate the global headquarters for our Optical Communications business in Mecklenburg County builds on our over 40-year relationship with North Carolina," said Clark Kinlin, executive vice president, Corning Optical Communications. "This decision is further evidence of our confidence in our growing \$2.7 billion business, and that North Carolina is a world-class location for a technology company."

The expansion will be facilitated in part by an award to the company from the state's Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program. Under the terms of the JDIG, the company is eligible to receive up to \$2.35 million in total reimbursements in annual installments over 12 years, pending verification by NC Commerce and NC Revenue that the company has met incremental job creation and investment targets.

Joining [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) in helping facilitate Corning Optical Communications' expansion is the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Mecklenburg County](#), the [City of Charlotte](#), the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), and the [Charlotte Chamber of Commerce](#).

[Read more.](#)



Qorvo to Expand Operations in Greensboro

Qorvo, Inc., a global provider of core technology and radio frequency ("RF") solutions will expand its Guilford County presence with the opening of a new facility and will hire 100 employees during the next three years. The company plans to invest \$25 million in North Carolina over that period.

Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement December 4.

"North Carolina is a global hub for innovation and the ideal home for Qorvo's expanding operations in Guilford County," said Governor McCrory. "We welcome the company's decision to expand its footprint right here with us."

operations hub."

Founded in 1989, Premier Research serves the clinical development needs of the biotech and specialty pharmaceutical sector. The company's global headquarters is in Philadelphia and has 1,000 employees in 50 countries. Premier Research's Durham facility currently employs 62 people.

"North Carolina is the birthplace and undisputed leader of the contract research industry with over 130 companies like Premier Research operating here," said Secretary Skvarla. "They are here because of our global accessibility, moderate costs and outstanding life science workforce."

Premier Research will establish an operations center in Durham County to support its offices and customers throughout North America. Among the new employees will be project managers, clinical monitors and data management specialists. Salaries will vary by position, but the new jobs will average \$73,296. Durham County's overall average wage is \$66,599.

"Access to first-rate talent, the ability to work with highly innovative companies, and superb higher education resources drew us to Research Triangle Park, and the area continues to impress us as a great place to do business," said Dr. Ludo Reynders, CEO of Premier Research. "Our growth in Durham, to occur over the next five years, will greatly increase our footprint in a community that is a vital center of the medical research industry."

Premier Research's expansion in Durham will be facilitated, in part, by an award to the company from the state's Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program. Under the terms of the company's JDIG, Premier Research is eligible to receive up to \$2.58 million in total reimbursements. This JDIG is contingent upon Durham County offering local incentives.

Premier Research's expansion could also provide as much as \$860,000 in new funds for the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account. The JDIG program includes this system to help finance economic infrastructure in less populated Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties when a JDIG-eligible company selects a Tier 3 county for their project location.

In early 2015, Hillsboro, Oregon-based TriQuint Semiconductor merged with RF Micro Devices to form Qorvo (NASDAQ: QRVO). RF Micro Devices was founded in Greensboro in 1991 and grew into an international provider of RF solutions that provide mobility, connectivity, and enhanced functionality for mobile devices. The two companies had combined revenues of \$2.1 billion in 2014. They maintain joint corporate headquarters in Oregon and Greensboro.

"Qorvo's choice of Greensboro for this expansion showcases the exceptional technology talent companies find in our state," said Secretary Skvarla. "It makes good business sense that we recognize our existing industries, especially those with deep entrepreneurial roots right here in North Carolina."

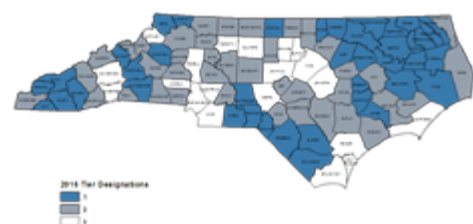
Qorvo's expanding staff will include new engineering jobs that will average around \$80,000 per year. Guilford County's overall annual wage is \$43,581.

"We appreciate the outstanding support provided by the State of North Carolina as Qorvo builds on its technology and product leadership to serve our many global customers," said Qorvo President and CEO Bob Bruggeworth. "North Carolina offers an excellent economic climate for growth and innovation as we continue to expand here and in our other locations."

Qorvo's expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$500,000 from the One North Carolina Fund. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance in support of local governments in creating jobs and attracting economic investment.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [City of Greensboro](#), the [Greensboro Partnership](#), the [High Point Economic Development Corporation](#), [Guilford County](#), the [Guilford County Workforce Development Board](#), [Guilford Tech Community College](#), [North Carolina A&T University](#), the [University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#), [Duke Energy](#), and [Piedmont Natural Gas](#).

[Read more.](#)



[Joining N.C. Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. in helping facilitate Premier Research's expansion is the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, Durham County, the Durham Workforce Development Board, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, Durham Technical Community College, the N.C. Biotechnology Center, and the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce.](#)

[Read more.](#)



Apprenticeships focus on developing advanced manufacturing skills.

NCWorks @ Work: Triangle Apprentice Program Tracks Students into Success

Sanderson High School senior Ben Johnson knew he wanted to join an apprenticeship program as soon as he was introduced to the idea.

"I knew I had what it took to get into college, but I wanted to further myself into something I wanted to do as a career," said Johnson, who takes high school classes in the morning and then works for Superior Tooling in the afternoon. "When I heard about this program, I was really excited because this is what I love to do - I love to make things."

Johnson's company, Superior Tooling, is one of seven members of the NC Triangle Apprenticeship Program, now training its second class of students. Apprenticeships combine classroom instruction and on-the-job training to teach advanced manufacturing skills.

Allied Automation, Buhler Aeroglide, Captiveaire, GlaxoSmithKline, Morris & Associates, and SCHUNK round out the companies currently participating in the NC TAP program.

"The skills [the apprentices] learn is a reflection of the needs of their employers," said Kent Misegades, vice president and co-founder of NC TAP.

NC TAP takes a different approach from conventional apprenticeship programs. Instead of the traditional model

Eight Counties Shift in 2016 Economic Tier Rankings

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has released the county tier designations for 2016. The designations, which are mandated by state law, play a role in several programs that assist in economic development.

Using a formula outlined in General Statute 143B-437.08, N.C. Commerce gathers required statistics for each of North Carolina's 100 counties, applies the formula and required adjustments, and assigns a tier designation ranking from one to three. Tier 1 counties are generally the most economically distressed and Tier 3 counties are generally the least economically distressed.

Eight counties will change tier designations for 2016. Caldwell, McDowell and Yancey counties will shift from a Tier 2 to a Tier 1 ranking. Haywood County will change from a Tier 3 to a Tier 2 ranking. Rockingham, Surry, and Wilson counties will move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 counties. Guilford County will shift from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

The rankings are based on an assessment of each county's unemployment rate, median household income, population growth, and assessed property value per capita. In addition, any county with a population of less than 12,000 or a county with a population of fewer than 50,000 residents with 19 percent or more of those people living below the federal poverty level are automatically classified as Tier 1. The law calls for the 40 lowest ranked counties to become Tier 1 counties, the next 40 counties to be designated as Tier 2 and the 20 highest ranked counties to become Tier 3 counties.

Tier designations determine eligibility for a number of different grant programs that N.C. Commerce administers including building reuse, water and sewer infrastructure, and the downtown revitalization Main Street program. Tier designations also play a role in the state's performance-based Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program, serving as a mechanism to channel funds for infrastructure improvements to less populated areas of the state.

More information about the tier designation system is available at nccommerce.com.

N.C. in the News

- [McCrory administration rolls with new NC brand](#) (*News & Observer* - December 6)
- [Months after RDU-Paris announcement, former Lenovo exec touts RDU-Beijing possibilities](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - December 4)
- [Business recruiting picking up, economic](#)
Charlotte

where a company establishes a stand-alone program, partner companies have come together with NC TAP to build a program where they share costs and training space, as well as benefit from the professional networks of a group of chief executives. NC TAP companies even help each other train all students in the program.

"Sometimes they won't have the ability to teach a particular skill to one of their apprentices, so they'll send them to a partner company," Misegades said.

Each NC TAP apprentice earns a salary while taking classes at Wake Technical Community College and working part-time for their employer. After finishing the program, apprentices earn an associate's degree in mechanical engineering technology and have a cross-section of basic engineering course work under their belt, including mechanical drawing, CAD, and many of the techniques that fall under mechatronics.

Apprentices like Jacob Van de Putte, a senior at Enloe High School, also graduate with an alternative to a traditional four-year degree program. Instead of going to a university, Van de Putte instead pursued an apprenticeship because it would give him a chance to work with his hands. He is now an apprentice with Superior Tooling.

"The thing that surprised me the most is that this was actually possible to do," Van de Putte said. "It doesn't require a college degree, it pays quite well, and I can eventually work [my] up to any position in the company."

Companies and consortiums must register their programs with NCWorks Apprenticeship, the program that works with each partner on the type of training to be delivered and the salaries apprentices will earn. By helping companies train workers, NCWorks is helping businesses find the talented candidates they'll need to grow. NCWorks also provides apprentices with what they need to start their careers.

"They have to earn their [co-workers'] respect as they're learning the skills," Misegades said of NC TAP's apprentices. "I don't know a single example of the apprentices we've taken on who haven't done that and more."

NCWorks @ Work is a SYNC series highlighting success stories from North Carolina's integrated workforce development system.

development chair says (
Observer - December 3)

- [North Carolina named one of America's most business-friendly states in real estate study](#) (*Mountain Xpress* - Asheville - November 24)

About Us

SYNC is the North Carolina Department of 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.](#)

(919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Rural Services](#)
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

Building Location:

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:

4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Unsubscribe](#) [Subscribe](#) feedback@nc-sync.com [SYNC archive](#)

© 2015 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC® is a registered trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.
