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NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



At the December 17 ceremony in Raleigh marking Microsoft's announcement, (L-R) Greg Ford, Chair, Wake County Commissioners; Governor Cooper; Reggie Isaac, U.S. Citizenship Lead for Economic Development, Microsoft; and T.J. Cawley, Mayor of the Town of Morrisville.

Microsoft to Create 500 New Jobs in Wake County

Microsoft, the global technology and software company, will create 500 new jobs in Wake County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced December 17. The company will invest \$47.5 million to expand their operations in Morrisville.

"Companies like Microsoft continue to expand in North Carolina because they see us as the right fit for technology success. Skilled, diverse workers and strong infrastructure mean businesses are confident that expanding in our state is a good business decision," said **Governor Cooper**.

In October, Microsoft announced an expansion in Charlotte that will create 430 jobs with a \$23 million investment.

"Microsoft is excited for the opportunities ahead in North Carolina," said **Reggie Isaac, US Citizenship Lead for Economic Development, Microsoft**. "We look forward to growing our workforce in Wake County, and expanding our ability to both drive innovation and serve employees, customers and partners in the community."

"When tech giants choose North Carolina, they join a thriving technology hub with the largest research park in the nation," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "This expansion affirms the value that Microsoft



From the announcement event earlier today, (L-R): Loren Hill, President, High Point Economic Development Corporation; Commerce Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill; Victor Dixon, CEO, LLLFlex; Jay Wagner, Mayor, City of High Point; and John Kay, Project Manager, LLLFlex.

Packaging Manufacturer to Create 46 New Jobs in Guilford County

LLFlex, a leader in packaging materials and industrial laminate solutions, will create 46 new jobs in Guilford County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (January 7). The company will invest \$7.6 million to locate a facility in High Point.

Commerce Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill led an event earlier this morning in High Point to celebrate the announcement.

"Another manufacturing jobs announcement for High Point is good news for the Triad. Companies like LLLFlex will continue to expand in our state because we prioritize our workforce and the skills needed to keep business on track," said **Governor Cooper**.

Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, LLLFlex has created custom packaging and lamination solutions for the construction, wire and cable, and tobacco industries for more than 90 years. LLLFlex is North America's leading supplier of cigarette inner bundling material and custom-printed lamination for tobacco products.

"North Carolina's educated, motivated workforce, business-friendly landscape and prime geographic location made it the ideal locale for our newest facility, which is a culmination of our commitment to customer service, production excellence and market share growth," said **Victor Dixon, CEO of LLLFlex**. "The new space, new equipment and new team members all add value in terms of

finds in our world-class research universities, innovative research and development network, and strong pipeline of tech talent."

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach up to \$125,354. The current average annual wage in Wake County is \$58,138.

The State of North Carolina awarded Microsoft a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) to support the project. Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by nearly \$2.1 billion. Up to \$12,118,500 could go to the company, in payments spread over 12 years, if the company remains in compliance of the terms of the grant.

Because Microsoft chose to expand in Wake County, the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$4 million 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 Wake, the new tax revenue generated through JDIG grants helps more economically challenged communities elsewhere in the state.

In addition to [N.C. 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](#), [Wake Technical Community College](#), [Wake County Board of Commissioners](#), [Wake County Economic Development](#), [Capital Area Workforce Development Board](#), [Morrisville Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Town of Morrisville](#), and [Duke Energy](#).



Governor Cooper (left) presents Daniel Koechler, Founder of Aircraft Solutions with a ceremonial gift from the state at the job announcement event held at the Global TransPark December 19.

475 Jobs Coming to Kinston and the Global TransPark as Aircraft Recycling Company Announces Nearly \$100 Million Investment

Aircraft Solutions USA Inc., a leader in managing aircraft at the end of their service life, will establish a new subsidiary at North Carolina's Global TransPark to recycle aircraft parts and materials. The company will create 475 jobs and invest nearly

manufacturing prowess, quality control, innovative product ideation and value-added industry partnerships. We'd like to thank North Carolina's wonderful team of public officials for their leadership and guidance and look forward to a longstanding relationship with this great state."

"North Carolina has a strong supply chain for LLFlex's target market," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Tobacco remains one of our top crops, our biopharmaceutical industry is growing rapidly, and we have the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast. These are all excellent roots for this company's growth trajectory."

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach \$58,021. The current average annual salary in Guilford County is \$47,955.

A performance-based grant of \$90,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate LL Flex's operation in Guilford County.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [City of High Point](#), [High Point Economic Development Corporation](#), [Guilford County Economic Development Alliance](#), and the [Greensboro Chamber of Commerce](#).

David Spratley Returns to N.C. Commerce as Senior Assistant Secretary of Finance

North Carolina Commerce Secretary **Anthony M. Copeland** has named **David Spratley**, an experienced financial and economic development executive, as the department's Senior Assistant Secretary of Finance.

Mr. Spratley will guide several economic development functions at Commerce, including the department's Rural Economic Development Division and the Commerce Finance Center, the business unit that manages the state's economic development incentive programs.

A former executive at KPMG, Spratley brings an extensive background in corporate finance and economic development management to his new role on Commerce's senior leadership team. He joins the department from the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, where he served as Vice President of Business Recruitment.

Spratley's appointment marks his return to N.C. Commerce, as he previously served in the department's former Business & Industry

\$100 million to establish the new aircraft recycling center in Lenoir County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced at a ceremony held at the Global TransPark on December 19.

"Our state's aerospace industry is taking off with the Global Transpark as a hub in rural eastern North Carolina," said **Governor Cooper**. "From first in flight to first in skilled workers, global companies like Aircraft Solutions will find North Carolina to be a great place to grow and thrive."

Aircraft Solutions serves commercial and military clients with aircraft that have reached their end of life stage and are ready for decommissioning. Despite an aircraft's age, older airframes often contain many valuable parts and materials that can be recycled. In phase one of the project, Aircraft Solutions' new recycling center will systematically remove, catalog, and inspect parts, certifying them as either usable, repairable, or unfit for service. The company plans to establish a paint shop in phase two of the project.

"After an intensive research and great support from various sites, such as the ElectriCities Business Relocation Program and excellent communications with each of the involved public departments, we are confident that Global TransPark of Lenoir North Carolina is the right location for our tremendous project," said **Dr. Sven Daniel Koechler, General Manager of Aircraft Solutions USA Inc.** "With our environmentally friendly and sustainable processes, we offer a real alternative to conventional boneyards and are proud to be able to build an architectural highlight in North Carolina with one of the largest hangars in the world. With our unique hanger system and our self-developed most effective new recycling technology, we are able to recycle up to 70 more Boeing 737s a year and will invest not only in the construction and modern equipment, but also in qualified workers and their families."

"The aviation industry famously got its start at Kitty Hawk, and this industry continues to find the right ingredients for success in North Carolina," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "This new investment will add to the growing relevance of the Global TransPark and Lenoir County to aviation companies."

Aircraft Solutions' project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) worth a potential \$4,782,000 to the company. Over the course of the 12-year term of the grant, the project will add nearly \$958 million to North Carolina's economy. Although wages will vary depending on position, the average salary for the new positions will reach as high as \$47,069. The Lenoir County average wage is \$36,766.

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 Department of Transportation](#) and its Division of Aviation, [ElectriCities](#), [Lenoir Community College](#), [North Carolina's Southeast](#), [Lenoir County](#), the [City of Kinston](#), and the [North Carolina Global TransPark](#).

Division. While at KPMG LLP in Charlotte, he provided clients with expertise in the site selection process, business incentives, and general economic development best practices.

Mr. Spratley is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He started his appointment at Commerce last week (December 30).

Jessica Englert named Assistant Secretary of N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions

Jessica Englert has joined N.C. Commerce as the department's Assistant Secretary of the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS).

Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland announced the appointment December 23, effective on New Year's Day. Ms. Englert will succeed current **Assistant Secretary Linda Cheatham**, who will remain at the agency in a part-time role during a transition period.

Most recently, Englert served as Workforce Development Policy Advisor for **Governor Roy Cooper**. In that role, she worked closely with DWS on the Finish Line Grants program and other elements of Governor Cooper's NC Job Ready initiative.

Prior to joining the Governor's Office in January 2017, Englert was an associate with the law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP in Washington, D.C. She holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University Bloomington and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Comments Welcome on State Plan for Workforce

A new [draft of North Carolina's State Unified Plan for implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) has been prepared and you're invited to [offer your thoughts](#) regarding the plan during a limited comment period which is now open.

The NCWorks Commission and North Carolina's workforce development system partners developed the new draft. The plan, required by federal law, will guide the implementation of the Act in North Carolina from 2020 through 2024.

Read the [draft plan here](#) and then [offer your comment using this online form](#).

Final RIA Meeting of 2019 Yields Rural Grants Tied to 473 New Jobs



Secretary Copeland (fourth from right) with company and local officials in Hickory December 18 for the Cataler announcement.

Cataler to Build Second Manufacturing Facility in N.C. Bringing 151 Jobs to Hickory

Cataler North America Corporation, a major manufacturer of catalysts for automobiles and engines, will build a new manufacturing plant in Hickory, creating 151 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced December 18. Cataler will invest a minimum of \$42 million in the project in Catawba County.

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Tony Copleand led an event in Hickory to celebrate the news that afternoon.

"Companies like Cataler know that more rural areas of North Carolina like Hickory are the perfect place for a great advanced manufacturing workforce, a lower cost of doing business and a fantastic quality of life," said **Governor Cooper**.

Cataler North America is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Cataler Corporation, a Japanese-based firm that operates seven manufacturing facilities across the globe. Cataler North America, established in 2002, is located in Lincolnton and supplies automotive catalysts for some of the world's largest automobile producers. Responding to continuing growth, the company's new project will establish a second, 100,000 square foot manufacturing plant in the state, with the new Hickory site offering opportunities for engineers, IT, and production personnel, among others. The company currently employs 378 people in North Carolina.

"The catalysts that Cataler North America produces help clean the air we breathe and make our world a better place to live", said **Nakaba Tamura, President of Cataler North America**. "We greatly appreciate the support from the State of North Carolina, Catawba County, and the City of Hickory on this expansion project to fulfill the needs of our customers and improve our environment."

"While sometimes overlooked, North Carolina is a major manufacturing location for the automotive industry," said **Secretary Copeland**. "We're pleased Cataler will expand the state's capacity to support this important economic sector."

Salaries for the new positions in Catawba County will vary by position and experience. The annual payroll impact will provide more than \$7 million to the local economy.

Cataler's project includes a 12-year term Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the grant's lifetime, the project will add an estimated \$414 million to North Carolina's economy and could yield the company up to \$1,027,800. Because Cataler chose Tier 2 Catawba County, the JDIG also calls for

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 12 rural grants to local governments at their last public meeting of 2019, totaling \$4,113,122 to help communities make necessary infrastructure preparations to attract business to their regions.

Governor Roy Cooper announced the awards December 13. The grants will help create 473 jobs and attract more than \$111 million in additional private investment.

"A focus on rural areas makes sure all North Carolinians have a healthier, better life, and a key to that is building and strengthening infrastructure," **Governor Cooper** said. "Rural Infrastructure Authority grants help pay for challenges rural areas must address to grow jobs and improve quality of life."

The Authority authorized Building Reuse grants in Alexander, Caldwell, Granville, Mitchell, Robeson, and Stanly counties as well as the cities or towns of Henderson, Thomasville and Warrenton. A grant was also awarded from the Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development program.

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

On Our Radar

- [Using Robots as Scapegoats Makes a Friendlier Workplace](#) (*LA Times* via *Governing* - January 4)
- [Americans Are Moving Less](#) (*Axios* - December 31)

N.C. in the News

- [15 storylines to watch in the '20s: Megasites and Carolina Core](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - January 6)
- [NC economic forecasts, emerging trends and recaps of 2019 kick off a busy 2020](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - January 6)
- [Shell building critical to development](#) (*Wilson Times* via *The Wake Weekly* - January 5)
- [NC: High-speed rail from Raleigh to Richmond just got a little closer to reality](#) (*News & Observer* via *Mass Transit Magazine* - December 27)
- [NC Counties See Benefit From Va Wind Farm](#) (*Coastal Review Online* - December

moving as much as \$114,200 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account, the fund that helps more economically challenged areas build the infrastructure needed to attract 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 Department of Transportation](#), [Catawba County](#), the [City of Hickory](#), and the [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation](#).

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- [How North Carolina is Fueling Startup Success](#) (*Forbes* - December 20)

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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