

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



At the State Capitol, Governor Cooper presents a ceremonial gift to ABB Executive Vice President Franklin 'Sully' Sullivan.

Global Industrial Company ABB Selects Orange County for Major Expansion

ABB, Inc., a global leader in electrification products, robotics, and industrial automation, will expand in Orange County and create more than 400 jobs. The company will invest up to \$39.9 million to upgrade equipment and increase the size of its



Earlier today, Governor Cooper presents a ceremonial fine china plate to BTS Vice President Rick Benton, II.

Tire Distributor to Invest \$2.7 million in Columbus County Expansion

Governor Roy Cooper was in Columbus County earlier today (July 23) to announce that Black's Tire Service, Inc, a tire distributor and service company, will create 26 jobs as it expands its operations in the county. The company will invest \$2.7 million to expand their current distribution center, located in Whiteville.

"The Black's Tire Service decision to expand its operations in rural North Carolina speaks to the power of the state's workforce, strong economy and great quality of life," said Governor Cooper. "Businesses that were started in North Carolina see the advantages of continuing to invest here, and Columbus County is ready to share in this company's continued growth."

Black's Tire Service, Inc. is a family-owned and operated company that has been distributing tires and servicing vehicles in North Carolina since 1929. The expansion will add 60,000 square feet to the company's largest distribution center. Within its three divisions, the company serves customers domestically and internationally.

"2019 marks the 90th anniversary of our company, which started right here in Columbus County," said Rick Benton, II, Vice President of Black's Tire Service. "We've grown over the years, and today our

current facility in Mebane.

Governor Roy Cooper announced the project during a ceremony at the State Capitol on July 10.

"Companies like ABB expanding their manufacturing operations means jobs and investment that benefit communities well beyond the walls of its facility," said **Governor Cooper**. "North Carolina will work to grow our education programs and improve workforce preparation so that companies continue to choose to grow and invest across our state."

ABB, Inc. is a pioneering technology leader serving customers around the world with a comprehensive offering for digital industries. With global headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland and its U.S. headquarters in Cary, the company is known for its customer-focused, globally leading businesses in the areas of electrification, industrial automation, motion, robotics and discrete automation, and power grids. ABB operates in more than 100 countries with about 147,000 employees worldwide.

"ABB is a global company with a strong, local footprint. That means we think globally on a strategic level and hire and grow locally," said **Greg Scheu, president Americas region, ABB**. "With our U.S. headquarters in Cary, North Carolina is strategically important to ABB. In fact, ABB employs more people in North Carolina, well over 3,000, than in any other state. This expansion in Mebane is further proof of our commitment to the region."

"North Carolina is committed to remaining a leader in manufacturing and companies recognize our potential to grow with them," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Leading our list of strengths is the North Carolina workforce, which provides the skills companies need for advanced manufacturing operations."

Although wages will vary depending on position, the average salary for all the new positions could reach up to \$70,789. The current average wage in Orange County is \$46,112.

A Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) could yield the company up to \$4,369,500, paid over a 12-year grant term. During that time, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by more than \$1 billion.

Because ABB chose a location in Orange County, classified by the state's economic tier system as Tier 3, the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$1,456,500 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.



Officials and leaders from Orange County and the City of Mebane celebrated at the Capitol on July 10.

Among the partners the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) worked with to secure this project

current warehouse provides inventory for 46 retail locations and more than 4,000 wholesale customers. We have approximately 175,000 tires ready for distribution at any given time. This expansion project will essentially double our warehouse, allowing us to continue to serve our customers, stay competitive, and create much needed job opportunities for new BTS team members throughout southeastern North Carolina. BTS began locally, has grown locally, and is very proud to expand locally right here in Columbus County."

"It's evident that North Carolina has a great business climate when a company continues to succeed in the same state for 90 years," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "This expansion will allow Black's Tire Service's to continue operating as an industry leader and community partner in Columbus County for many years to come."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but the average annual wage will be \$32,481. The average annual wage in Columbus County is \$33,817.

A performance-based grant of \$75,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Black's Tire Service expansion in Columbus County. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and to create jobs. Companies 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.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), worked other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Columbus County](#), [Columbus County Economic Development Commission](#), and the [City of Whiteville](#).

After First Year, More Than 1,700 Finish Line Grants Help Students Complete Their Workforce Training

Governor Cooper marked the one year anniversary July 12 for his Finish Line Grants program with the news that more than 1,700 of the grants have helped community college students complete their training and prepare to enter the workforce.

The grants total more than \$1.1 million awarded to date.

"We launched Finish Line Grants after

are the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Orange County](#), the [City of Mebane](#), and [Orange County Economic Development](#).



Governor Cooper announces the ABB project from the well of the old House Chamber at the Capitol.



Chief Deputy Secretary Liz with Precision BioSciences' CEO Matt Kane.

Chief Deputy Crabill Celebrates Milestone for Company Helped by Commerce Grants

N.C. Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill joined Precision BioSciences, Inc. CEO Matt Kane July 18 for the grand opening celebration of Precision's in-house Manufacturing Center for Advanced Therapeutics (MCAT) in Durham.

Precision BioSciences is a North Carolina-based genome editing company dedicated to improving life and rapidly expanding. It was founded in 2006 with technology first developed at Duke University, with its purpose to develop potential cures for genetic disease, cancer, and to improve food sources.

Early funding for the company came from federal SBIR grants and the [One North Carolina Small Business program](#). It has now raised over \$450 million total through financing and partnerships and has since become a publicly traded company

hearing countless stories of community college students working hard to better their lives but getting thrown off course by a financial emergency," said **Governor Cooper**. "Finish Line Grants are helping hundreds of students get good-paying jobs by making sure a hospital bill or car repair doesn't stop them in their tracks. North Carolina employers need talented workers, and Finish Line Grants are one way we're making sure they can find them."

Since last summer, Finish Line Grants have been launched at all of North Carolina's 58 community colleges. Each of North Carolina's 23 workforce development boards partnered with community colleges to make Finish Line Grants available for students in their communities. Students must be 50% of the way through their degree or credential training program to be eligible to receive a grant.

"The leadership, dedication and innovation of professionals at our local workforce development boards, the Commerce department and NCWorks Career Centers—working in partnership with our outstanding community colleges—have made the Finish Line Grants program a success," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony Copeland**. "By helping community college students stay on track to completing the credentials they need for rewarding careers, Finish Line Grants are helping us to maintain and grow our skilled workforce, which has never been more essential to economic development than it is today."

"The Finish Line Grants are moving qualified workers into high-demand jobs, but more importantly, these grants are helping our students achieve their goals," said **Peter Hans, president of the N.C. Community College System**. "We are grateful for this innovative program and we're excited about removing more barriers to success. When students in need get a little bit of help, they can reach their full potential. We are already seeing evidence of that."

[Read more](#), including how students in your area can apply.

On Our Radar

- [These are America's Top States for Business in 2019 \(N.C. No. 3\)](#) (CNBC - July 10)
- [The nation's most exciting park project is taking shape in North Carolina](#) (Curbed.com - July 9)
- [Upcoming Event: Southeastern Opportunities in Regional Aerospace Summit](#) (North Carolina Military Business Center - Event Dates August 12-13)

(Nasdaq: DTIL). The company is currently doing cutting-edge work in CAR T cell therapy and cancer treatment and has invested over \$26 million on facility expansion in North Carolina.

Governor Cooper Announces More Funding for Temporary Jobs for Hurricane Florence Recovery

Governor Cooper announced additional federal funding is now available for the temporary employment program that helps North Carolinians get back to work in areas affected by Hurricane Florence.

“Getting back to work is one of the biggest steps to getting back into the rhythm of daily life after a devastating weather event like a hurricane,” said **Governor Cooper**. “I will continue pushing for funds and programs that can get people back to work and help us rebuild smarter and stronger.”

The new funds, totaling \$3.1 million, are part of a Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant that the U.S. Department of Labor initially awarded to the N.C. Department of Commerce in late September 2018, not long after Hurricane Florence devastated the state. Commerce’s Workforce Solutions division requested the grant and administers the program in partnership with local Workforce Development Boards.

The additional funding will address the immediate needs for workers in the hardest-hit counties: Robeson, Bladen, Hoke, Scotland and Richmond, all of which are served by the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. Funding will also be available to other eligible areas with identified continuing recovery needs.

For more information about participating in the Hurricane Florence temporary employment program, either as a worker or as employer, visit a local NCWorks Career Center, which can be found by visiting ncworks.gov.

N.C. in the News

- [What drives economic development? \(Recap of Sec. Copeland Appearance\)](#)
Goldsboro News-Argus - July 11)
- [Commerce Secretary Addresses Development Alliance \(PHOTOS\)](#)
Goldsboro Daily News - July 11)
- [Success at Paris Air Show translates into hundreds of jobs in WNC](#) *WLOS-TV* - July 9)

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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