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Gov. Cooper with Mr. Ding Yuhua, Chairman of Triangle Tyre.

Gov. Cooper Announces Largest Ever Manufacturing Investment in Rural North Carolina

Chinese tire manufacturing company Triangle Tyre will build its first manufacturing facility in the United States in Edgecombe County. Triangle will create 800 jobs and invest nearly \$580 million at the Kingsboro CSX Select Megasite.

Governor Roy Cooper announced the project on December 19. The project is estimated to contribute more than \$2.4 billion to North Carolina's economy over 12 years.

"Triangle Tyre chose North Carolina for its first-ever manufacturing center outside of China because they know our workers share their commitment to innovation, education and excellence," said **Governor Cooper**. "I'm excited to see these 800 skilled manufacturing jobs go to Eastern North Carolina where I grew up and raised my family, a place where people have an unshakeable dedication to getting the job done. We welcome Triangle Tyre to its new home, and we're ready to get to work."

Triangle Tyre Co., Ltd. was founded in 1976 and is headquartered in the Shandong Province of China. Triangle has concentrated on tire technology innovation, manufacturing and the global tire market for 40 years. Currently, Triangle's annual manufacturing capacity is more than 22 million tires (approximately 580,000 tons), and the company's products



Governor Cooper Announces 140 New Jobs in Cumberland County

DHL Supply Chain, a leader in contract logistics and part of Deutsche Post DHL Group, plans to bring 140 jobs to Cumberland County in partnership with Campbell Soup Company, Governor Roy Cooper announced December 22. Together, the companies plan to invest more than \$40 million in this project.

"DHL Supply Chain and Campbell chose Cumberland County for its skilled workforce, proximity to major transportation hubs, and favorable business climate," said **Governor Cooper**. "I'm proud to welcome them to North Carolina."

DHL Supply Chain is partnering with Campbell to develop a distribution network of four centers across the country. Campbell plans to construct a 627,000 square-foot distribution facility with the capacity to potentially expand an additional 50 percent. In addition to the 140 full-time jobs, DHL expects to create 55 part-time jobs to operate the distribution and logistics center. DHL Supply Chain is the world's leading contract logistics provider and has global expertise when it comes to premier distribution networks including warehouse management technology and site management.

"North Carolina's Cumberland County is the ideal place to expand our partnership with Campbell Soup Company through a new distribution center," said **Franklin Littleton, President of DHL Supply Chain's Consumer Sector**. "We've been fortunate to work with Campbell's since 2013, and see this as the next step on our collaborative journey to improve the company's supply chain bandwidth and deliver real food that matters for life's moments."

"This facility will bring a large investment and 140 jobs to an area that's ready to get to work," said **Anthony M. Copeland, North Carolina Commerce Secretary**. "I know the community will come together to help make

have been exported to more than 180 countries and regions.

"Triangle Tyre is bringing a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility to North Carolina, giving our entire state a new and highly advanced manufacturing capacity the likes of which we haven't yet seen in North Carolina," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "These are quality, efficient, well-paying jobs that require specific skills, and our communities are ready to support people who want the training required to get these jobs."

Triangle will build two manufacturing facilities, a passenger tire facility as phase one and a commercial tire facility as phase two. The company expects to complete both phases by 2023. Once both facilities reach production capacity, Triangle expects to produce six million tires annually in North Carolina. Salaries for the new positions will vary, with an average annual salary of \$56,450 once all positions are filled. The average wage in Edgecombe County is \$32,642.

"Triangle Tyre strongly believes that the project will blossom with beautiful flowers and bear the most abundant fruits in the U.S., a developed nation on wheels," said **Mr. Ding Yuhua, Chairman of Triangle Group and Triangle Tyre**. "We will give back the fruits to the people of North Carolina with our utmost sincerity."

Triangle's development in Edgecombe County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$20.1 million, spread over 12 years. The company has also been awarded a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund for up to \$16 million.

The project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$2.4 billion over the 12 year period of the JDIG grant.

Partnering with [North Carolina 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 [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), [North Carolina Railroad](#), the [Golden LEAF Foundation](#), [Edgecombe County](#), [Carolinas Gateway Partnership](#), [Dominion Energy](#), and [CSX Corporation](#).

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German-based Automotive Supply Company to Create 302 Jobs in Iredell County

Tristone Flowtech USA Inc., a subsidiary of a German supplier of motor and battery cooling parts and air intake systems for the automotive industry will locate its first manufacturing facility in the United States in Iredell County, creating 302 jobs,

this project a success."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position. Once all full-time positions are filled, the annual payroll impact will total \$4.515 million.

"Enhancing our distribution capabilities is the most effective and efficient way to meet dynamic customer and consumer needs today and in the future," said **Robert Furbee, senior vice president, Global Supply Chain, Campbell Soup Company**. "The combination of partnering with an expert like DHL Supply Chain and Fayetteville's proximity to major rail and truck transportation hubs helps us quickly advance that strategy."

A five-year \$200,000 performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate DHL and Campbell's expansion in Cumberland County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), [Cumberland County](#), the [City of Fayetteville](#), the [Fayetteville Cumberland County Economic Development Corporation](#), and [North Carolina's Southeast](#).

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200 New Jobs on Tap as Conduent Selects N.C. for Innovation Hub

Conduent Incorporated, the world's largest provider of diversified business services, has selected North Carolina's Research Triangle region for an all-new global technology and innovation hub that will create 200 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced December 18. The company will invest \$2.7 million in Morrisville in Wake County.

"North Carolina offers a deep pool of talented workers that attracts global technology companies," said **Governor Cooper**.

"Conduent's decision to select the Research Triangle is the latest example of how investing in a highly-skilled, educated workforce pays off for North Carolina."

Conduent, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey and formed on December 31, 2016 after its separation from Xerox, serves customers around the world with leading capabilities in transaction processing, automation and analytics. Conduent's clients include 76 companies from the Fortune 100.

Governor Roy Cooper announced December 21. The company will invest \$23.6 million in Mooresville.

"North Carolina is home to a thriving group of manufacturers that supply critical parts to the automotive industry," said **Governor Cooper**. "Tristone Flowtech's decision to locate its first U.S. plant in Iredell County demonstrates North Carolina's appeal to this important international industry."

Tristone Flowtech is a subsidiary of Tristone Flowtech Group, headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. The company is a full-system provider of engine and battery cooling systems as well as air charge and air intake applications for the automotive industry, with a global footprint of ten production plants in Europe, China, India and Mexico. With the U.S. automotive industry growing rapidly, the company has been seeking a North American location in order to better serve its customer base of U.S.-based Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

"The coming production facility in Mooresville will support our growth strategy in the United States with the startup of new businesses already nominated by major US based automotive OEM's," said **Guenter Froelich, CEO and President of Tristone Flowtech Group**. "We are very pleased with the cooperation with the State of North Carolina and Iredell County on this project, and look forward to being part of the community in Mooresville."

"The motor vehicle and parts manufacturing industry contributed \$3.875 billion to North Carolina's economy in 2016," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland**. "Governor Cooper and I are committed to this industry and we're pleased to welcome Tristone Flowtech to the family of companies that call North Carolina home."

Tristone Flowtech's expansion in Iredell County will be facilitated, in part, by a 12-year term Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$281 million over that time, and if the company meets its job creation and investment targets it could receive up to \$1,008,000, paid over 12 years.

Partnering with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Duke Energy](#), the [Town of Mooresville](#), [Iredell County](#), the [South Iredell Community Development Corporation](#), and the [Mooresville South Iredell Economic Development Corporation](#).

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Outdoor Power Equipment Company Expands to Burke Co. with 187 New Jobs

Sunrise Global Marketing, LLC, leading manufacturers of Greenworks-branded battery-powered outdoor equipment for

The new operation in Wake County will drive several leading-edge focus areas for the company, including data modeling and machine learning, artificial intelligence, and sensor technologies. North Carolina's pool of talented workers in these areas helped influence the company's decision to locate in the state.

"Given Conduent has a strong relationship in North Carolina already - with more employees here than any other state - opening a new global technology and innovation hub in the heart of the Research Triangle is the right move for our clients and our people," said **Ashok Vemuri, chief executive officer, Conduent**. "We are honored to have the support of Gov. Cooper to enrich the area's labor market and economy all while creating all-new and innovative solutions for the world's best businesses."

Conduent will add a variety of job functions at the new site, including research scientists, software developers, information technology, corporate finance, legal, and human resources positions. Although salaries will vary by position, the average wage across all positions will be \$100,000, which is higher than the current Wake County average wage of \$53,783.

Conduent was awarded a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) that authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$2.1 million, spread over 12 years. Over the course of the grant, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$344 million.

Partnering with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Wake Tech](#), the [Capital Area Workforce Development Board](#), the [Town of Morrisville](#), [Wake County](#), the [Morrisville Chamber of Commerce](#), and [Wake County Economic Development](#).

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Hydraulic Lift Maker Dhollandia

professionals and Do-It-Yourself consumers, will create 187 jobs over five years in Burke County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced December 21. The company plans to invest \$23.225 million to expand its operations in North Carolina by creating a state-of-the-art facility capable of housing warehousing, assembly and manufacturing.

"North Carolina continues to attract manufacturers because of our strong, educated workforce, robust infrastructure and favorable business climate," said **Governor Cooper**. "Sunrise Global Marketing will find a community of committed educators, talent and public and private partners ready to help them succeed."

Sunrise Global Marketing's North American Headquarters is currently located in Mooresville, N.C. The company manufactures and markets battery-powered outdoor equipment for consumers and landscaping professionals, such as leaf blowers, lawn mowers, chain saws, string trimmers, and hedge trimmers. The new Burke County project provides flexibility for future expansion of North American operations to include warehousing, assembly and manufacturing.

"North Carolina has proven to be a great home for our North American Headquarters, and we're both excited and proud to be moving another component of our organization to this great state," said **Chris Allen, President of Sunrise Global Marketing**. "North Carolina allows us to continue to recruit and retain top-tier talent. It provides a high quality of life for our team members, while also affording us all of the other fundamentals to conduct business at a world-class level."

The company's expansion in Burke County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$428 million. 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 \$1.377 million, spread over 12 years.

The state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account could also grow by as much as \$153,000, since Burke is a Tier 2 county.

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](#), [Burke County](#), [Burke Development, Inc.](#), the [City of Morganton](#), and [Duke Energy](#).

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MFG will Create 150 Jobs in Gaston County

A manufacturer of hydraulic lifts for trucks and other vehicles will locate its first manufacturing plant in the United States in Gaston County, creating 150 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced December 21. Dhollandia MFG will invest \$30 million in Bessemer City.

"International companies that supply the automotive industry recognize North Carolina's many advantages for their businesses" said **Governor Cooper**. "Dhollandia joins the many international companies already in North Carolina that supply parts and equipment to this important industry."

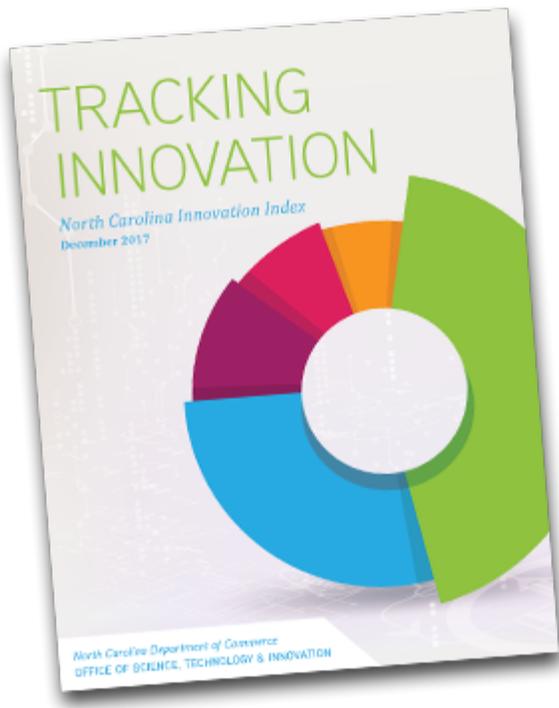
Dhollandia MFG is a subsidiary of a parent company founded in 1968 in Belgium, and with this decision Dhollandia will add manufacturing capacity to capture new opportunities in the growing North American market.

"We are very excited about this project and our intention is to make it the most modern factory in our group with high level technology and a training center for both internal training and training for end users," said **Lothar Burger, incoming CEO for Dhollandia MFG**. "We very much look forward to start the project and we believe that North Carolina will prove to be a very supportive and reliable partner in the long-term relationship we would like to establish. We're also looking forward to working with the local community and engaging with Gaston Community College to start an apprenticeship program."

"It's a pleasure to welcome another global company to our state," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland**. "Dhollandia reviewed many options for this new facility but in the end, North Carolina's strong support for manufacturers and our commitment to education and workforce training made our state the clear choice."

Dhollandia MFG's move into Gaston County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) that authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$1,461,600, spread over 12 years. Over the course of the 12-year term, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$223 million.

Partnering with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Duke Energy](#), the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), the City of [Bessemer City](#), [Gaston County](#), and the [Gaston County Economic Development Commission](#).



New Report Recommends Steps to Enhance Innovation in North Carolina

North Carolina businesses must intensify their research and development efforts and the state must grow the share of community college and university students that earn degrees in science and engineering, according to the 2017 Tracking Innovation report released December 21 by the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation.

The 2017 report, the sixth in a series first published in 2000, rigorously evaluates the state's standing against other states in the country on measures of innovation capacity and outlines ways to advance the state's economy by encouraging and harnessing innovation.

"North Carolina has been home to many firsts, from the Wright Brothers first flight to the invention of the barcode," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "This report offers suggestions for how to develop and encourage the next generation of innovators in our state, the people who will create North Carolina's next firsts."

Tracking Innovation: The North Carolina Innovation Index 2017 assesses the state's performance across 40 measures of innovation-related assets, activities, and trends. The strongest source of innovation remains North Carolina's universities, according to the report. The state performs at 151 percent of the national average on the measure of appropriations for higher education expenses as a portion of gross domestic product (GDP), earning a 4th place ranking among the 50 states. High-tech business formation outpaced the national average by 23 percentage points. North Carolina manufacturing output as a function of total GDP ranks 4th in the country, performing at 164 percent of the U.S. average.

The report does identify areas for improvement, noting the state's share of engineers as a percentage of all workers ranks 33rd in the U.S. In terms of R&D activities performed by business, the state performed at only 91 percent of the national

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Rural Communities Receive \$7.2 Million in Grants, Attracting 342 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 21 grant requests on December 14, totaling \$7,159,350. The requests include commitments to create a total of 342 new jobs. An additional 182 new jobs associated with these grants had been previously announced.

"Businesses expect a certain amount of basic infrastructure to be in place before they will even consider a community for an expansion or re-location," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Rural Infrastructure Authority, supported by the Rural Economic Development team at Commerce, helps communities prepare these necessary tools so they can compete for the business they deserve."

In the latest round of grants, the RIA approved three requests from the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program in Elizabethtown, Eden, and Stanly County.

Grants under the state's federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development program were made to the towns of Drexel and Tabor City.

Under the state's Building Reuse program, the RIA approved 16 grants in locations across the state.

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

average for a #21 ranking, although this performance did mark an improvement from the 2015 report.

"North Carolina is known for encouraging innovation, but our well-deserved high-tech reputation sometimes masks the work that remains for us to do," said **Dr. John Hardin, executive director of the North Carolina Office of Science, Technology & Innovation**, a unit of N.C. Commerce. "This report offers elected officials, policymakers, economic development professionals, educators and business leaders several tangible suggestions for further developing an innovation-oriented economy in North Carolina."

The 2017 Tracking Innovation report is the Board's sixth report since 2000 on innovation in North Carolina. The full text of the new report can be found online at nccommerce.com/sti/resources/innovation-reports.



Happy New Year

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- [2017 a strong year for business in the state, county](#) (*Carteret County News-Times* - Dec. 27)
- [New facilities to boost local economy](#) (*Rocky Mount Telegram* - Dec. 27)

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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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