

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



Automotive Supplier to Add 42 Jobs, Invest More Than \$13M in Edgecombe County

Keihin Carolina System Technology will expand its automotive assembly operations in Edgecombe County, adding 42 jobs over the coming three years, Governor Roy Cooper announced February 2. The company plans to invest more than \$13 million at its Tarboro facility.

"This expansion shows confidence in our workforce, our economy and our state as a great place for world-class employers to invest and grow," Governor Cooper said. "As a native of eastern North Carolina, I know how critical skilled manufacturing jobs like these are to Edgecombe County and other rural parts of North Carolina."

Keihin Carolina will hire production associates and technical staff. While compensation will vary by position, average salaries for the new jobs will be \$32,230, in line with Edgecombe County's current average annual wage of \$32,642.

N.C. Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. were instrumental in the expansion project. "This company is a key automotive supplier known for quality and global reach," said Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland. "Keihin Carolina will add more jobs that keep North Carolina ranked number one for manufacturing jobs in the southeast."

Keihin Carolina System Technology assembles and tests electrical components for Honda vehicles made around the world. Keihin Carolina has operated in Tarboro since 1998 and currently employs 400 people.

A performance-based grant of \$150,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Keihin Carolina's expansion in Tarboro. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance to support local government efforts to attract economic investment and create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants are contingent upon a local government match.

"Keihin Carolina System Technology, Inc., Keihin or KCST, as it



U.S. Unit of Swiss Technology Group Selects Huntersville for 93-job Facility

Global technology group Oerlikon will invest \$62 million to establish a manufacturing hub in Mecklenburg County that will create 93 new jobs during the next five years, Governor Roy Cooper announced yesterday (February 6).

"North Carolina is a leader in advanced manufacturing and these are the kinds of skilled, high-paying jobs we want to bring to our state," Governor Cooper said. "A talented workforce, excellent access to markets and a competitive business climate make our state a top destination for global manufacturers."

Oerlikon is headquartered in Pfäffikon, Switzerland. The company has been in business for more than 100 years and is a leader in surface solutions, advanced materials and materials processing. It has a global footprint of more than 13,500 employees at more than 170 locations in 37 countries. It serves customers in the automotive, aerospace, energy, medical and other industries.

Oerlikon's Huntersville facility will be the company's first additive manufacturing facility in the U.S. and will provide end-to-end advanced component manufacturing and house extensive research and development and production teams. The facility will showcase an integrated approach to the design and manufacture of advanced components to Oerlikon's customers.

Oerlikon will hire engineers, R&D staff and skilled craftsmen for its North Carolina facility. While compensation will vary by position, annual salaries for the new jobs will average \$93,011. Mecklenburg County's overall wages currently average \$62,741 per year.

is known locally, is a leader in the manufacture of Engine Control Units," said plant manager David Catt. "KCST provides these world-class products with a combination of highly trained associates with advanced robotic technologies and automated manufacturing processes."

Catt added, "Respect for the individual is key to the Keihin Philosophy. KCST considers its employees to be its greatest assets and invests heavily in their continuing education, training and manufacturing skills development. With the vision of 'passionate people committed to excellence' KCST strives to the world class performance in product quality, customer satisfaction, employee fulfillment and dedication to corporate citizenship."

Engine control units produced at KCST's 147,000-square-foot plant in Tarboro are shipped to Honda assembly sites in the United States, as well as Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, Thailand and the United Kingdom. The company is a unit of Japan's Keihin Corporation [Tokyo Stock Exchange: 7251], founded in 1956.

"With more than two decades of being an industry leader in providing system parts that promote conservation, emissions and efficiency goals, KCST is a major local employer that continues to grow," said NC Senator Erica Smith-Ingram. "Best of all, this company is an engaged educational and community partner."

"Young people have access to promising career opportunities in our community thanks to Keihin Carolina," said N.C. Representative Shelly Willingham. "It is always good to see existing employers expand right at home."

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners in the project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Town of Tarboro](#), [Edgecombe County](#), and the [Carolinas Gateway Partnership](#).

[Read more.](#)

Golden LEAF Foundation to Provide Update on Disaster Relief Funding Process

The Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 includes a \$200 million recovery package to provide disaster relief to those affected by Hurricane Matthew, recent wildfires in the western part of the state, and tropical storms Hermine and Julia.

The package allocates \$10 million to the N.C. Department of Commerce for local government infrastructure grants and \$10 million to the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality for infrastructure repair and cleanup.

The Golden LEAF Foundation has been allocated \$25 million, including \$20 million to provide grants to local governments for infrastructure and \$5 million for small business loans.

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and N.C. League of Municipalities are again partnering to hold sessions across the state where local government leaders will get an update from Dan Gerlach, President of the Golden LEAF Foundation, on the status of the grant application process and what to expect in the coming months. This is your opportunity to ask questions about the process and get prepared for next steps.

Eastern Disaster Relief Update Session times and locations

"This investment in North Carolina marks an important step in our plans to become a leading service provider for the fast-expanding additive manufacturing market. I would like to thank the North Carolina Business Development Program for their support, and we look forward to becoming part of this community," said Dr. Roland Fischer, Oerlikon CEO.

Helping facilitate Oerlikon's arrival in North Carolina was a performance-based grant of up to \$1 million 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. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants are contingent upon a local government match.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Mecklenburg County](#), the [Town of Huntersville](#), the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), the [Charlotte Chamber of Commerce](#), and the [Lake Norman Economic Development Corporation](#).

[Read more.](#)



Planning Effort Underway for Freight Master Plan

Identifying transportation needs and guiding economic development decisions to maximize the overall impact of the new CCX Intermodal Facility are the focus of a new planning initiative. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Carolinas Gateway Partnership are currently preparing the Carolina Connector Regional Freight Master Plan.

CSX Corporation, the company behind the new CCX facility, is one of the nation's leading rail and intermodal facility providers.

The new intermodal facility provides an

include:

- Lumberton • Thursday, February 9, 2-3 p.m.
- Kenansville • Friday, February 10, 10-11 a.m.
- New Bern • Friday, February 10, 2-3 p.m.
- Raleigh • Thursday, February 16, 2-3 p.m.
- Elizabeth City • Friday, February 17, 10-11 a.m.
- Williamston • Friday, February 17, 2-3 p.m.

[For more information about these sessions, or to register, visit the NCACC website.](#)

opportunity for North Carolina to connect directly with national and international suppliers and markets. As NCDOT evaluated the positive benefits of CSX's decision to construct CCX, planners realized that economic impacts for North Carolina would be maximized through a comprehensive planning initiative. Based on the anticipated number of 'lifts' with at least an origin or destination in the state, it's been estimated that CCX could generate 8,000 to 20,000 jobs through economic development, as projects are drawn to the region based on the transport capabilities the CCX will offer.

A consultant team consisting of Simpson Engineers and Associates, Dewberry, Cambridge Systematics, Strategic Development Group and TransDevelopment will lead the study. Representatives from the NCDOT Rail Division and Carolinas Gateway Partnership will be supported by an Advisory Group that will include the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

The study will be completed in July 2017. If you have any questions or need additional input, you're invited to call Eddie McFalls at the Department of Transportation at (919) 707-4727 or via email at ebmcfalls@ncdot.gov.

N.C. in the News

- [100 Best Places to Live in the USA \(Several N.C. locations make list\)](#) (*U.S. News & World Report* - February 6)
- [Duke Energy unveils transmission line corridor \(Greensboro-Randolph Megasite\)](#) (*Courier-Tribune* - Asheboro - February 5)
- [Moncure Megasite could draw major manufacturer to region](#) (*News & Observer* - February 5)
- [Container rail service to Port of Wilmington could start in March](#) (*Wilmington Star-News* - February 2)
- [North Carolina Program Inspires Others](#) (*Mississippi Business Journal* - February 2)
- [Why I work in economic development in Scotland County](#) (*The Laurinburg Exchange* - February 1)
- [Labor force seen as key to growth](#) (*Rocky Mount Telegram* - January 30)
- [Craft beer, Instagram and jeans: Charlotte Chamber gets a makeover](#) (*Charlotte Observer* - January 24)

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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