



Governor McCrory welcomes Prescient executives to the state at an event held Monday (Aug. 29) to announce the company's decision.

Construction Industry Innovator Will Bring 205 Jobs to Alamance County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) announced August 29 that Prescient will establish a 205-job operations center in Alamance County to serve its East Coast customer base. The integrated manufacturing and design technology company will invest more than \$18.8 million at N.C. Commerce Park near Mebane.

"Once again, an innovative manufacturing leader has chosen North Carolina to take advantage of our outstanding business climate," said **Governor McCrory**. "I love companies that build things and I look forward to the valuable contribution Prescient will make to our state's economy and business community."

Prescient provides the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry with an innovative design platform that offers a faster and more cost-effective alternative to conventional building structures. The company has numerous projects already completed in Colorado, Florida and Texas.

"North Carolina's outstanding transportation systems and trainable workforce put us on the short list for regional headquarters projects," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "Our strategic mid-Atlantic geography will put Prescient within convenient reach of customers across the eastern United States."

Prescient will bring design, manufacturing and other business operations to the N.C. Commerce Park, a 1,200-acre business property developed collaboratively by Alamance County with the cities of Graham and Mebane. The company plans to



Japanese Corporation Selects North Carolina, Creating 56 Jobs

Yokohama Tire Corporation will establish a Technical Development Center in North Carolina, investing nearly \$2.7 million on the Center over a period of three years and creating up to 56 jobs in the process. The target site will be the City of Concord in Cabarrus County.

Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement today (August 30).

North Carolina's leadership in motorsports and automotive components are helping bring great jobs to North Carolina," said **Governor McCrory**. "Yokohama Tire Corporation's new Technical Development Center will build on skills and expertise few destinations anywhere can match."

Yokohama Tire Corporation is the North American manufacturing and marketing arm of Tokyo, Japan-based The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd. (YRC), a global manufacturing and sales company of premium tires. Founded in 1917, the company [Tokyo Stock Exchange: 5101] maintains a worldwide workforce of more than 22,000. Yokohama Tire Corporation's products are widely recognized for their innovation and high performance.

"The arrival of this leading global tire supplier adds another top name to North Carolina's transportation equipment sector," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Skvarla**. "Yokohama's new testing and development facility will utilize top-notch engineering mindpower and our rich pool of talent in high-performance automotive components."

Yokohama's Technical Development Center will employ engineers, technicians, management staff and others. The company's annual payroll impact will add up to \$4.5 million to the local economy.

"The establishment of the Yokohama Technical Development Center in North Carolina is yet another testament to our

employ designers, project managers, installers and other skilled positions. Salaries will vary by position, but the average annual compensation at Prescient's new facility will be \$46,544. Alamance County's average wage is currently \$36,346 per year.

"Developers, architects, engineers and general contractors in the multi-unit housing industry are seeing the benefits of our platform, and this facility will allow us to efficiently service our customers up and down the I-95 corridor from Maine to Miami by being closer to their markets," said **Satyen Patel, chairman and CEO of Prescient**. "The demand for our system across the Mid-Atlantic, the South and South Eastern U.S. continues to grow, and we are looking forward to a long and productive partnership."

Prescient's arrival in Alamance County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee. Under the terms of the company's JDIG, the company is eligible to receive up to \$1,964,700 in total reimbursements.

By law, JDIG projects must result in a net revenue inflow to the state treasury over the life of the award. In the case of JDIG-supported projects in Tier 2 counties such as Alamance, 15 percent of the award is directed to the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to help finance economic infrastructure in less populated Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Prescient's new facility could provide as much as \$218,300 in new funds for the Utility Account.

Since Governor McCrory entered office in January of 2013, North Carolina's economy has generated more than 300,000 jobs.

[N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) worked with the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Alamance Chamber](#), the [Alamance County Board of Commissioners](#), and the cities of [Graham](#) and [Mebane](#) to help locate the project in North Carolina.

[Read more.](#)

Governor McCrory Announces More Than \$5.1 Million in Infrastructure Funding Supporting 197 New Jobs Statewide

Governor Pat McCrory announced August 18 that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 19 grant and loan requests totaling \$5,153,475. The requests include commitments to create a total of 197 new jobs.

"Quality buildings, sites and infrastructure remain fundamental for every business, and these grants and loans enable North Carolina communities to attract, grow and retain companies and jobs," said **Governor McCrory**. "RIA programs move the needle for our smaller towns and counties when opportunities for economic development arise."

Several categories of grants were used by the RIA to fulfill community requests.

From the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account:

- **Craven County:** A \$320,000 grant to assist with industrial access to the Craven County Industrial Park. The new access opens up development opportunities for an additional 100 acres of land at the park, which is

commitment to the North American market," said **Tetsuya Kuze, Vice President of Yokohama Corporation of North America**. "With a Technical Center in the United States, we accelerate our ability to deliver new tire products to both the original equipment and replacement tire markets."

Kuze added, "After extensive research for the ideal location to consolidate our R&D activities, we found North Carolina to have the perfect combination of a high quality workforce and close proximity to a major international airport."

Yokohama Tire Corporation's arrival in North Carolina was facilitated in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$150,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

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 [North Carolina Community College System](#), [City of Concord](#), [Cabarrus County](#), and [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#).

[Read more.](#)



Mount Fuji, the iconic symbol of Japan.

Registration Closing Soon for Upcoming SEUS/Japan Conference

North Carolina economic developers and business executives aiming to increase opportunities in Japan still have time to register for the 39th Annual Southeast U.S./Japan Conference, being held in Tokyo, Japan September 20-22, 2016.

Late registration slots are available until September 12.

The conference is one of the state's best opportunities each year to reach Japanese executives for business development purposes. A [preliminary agenda is available for review online](#).

North Carolinians interested in joining the state's delegation may contact David Rhoades, State Conference Coordinator at (919) 814-4611 or [by email](#). The [conference application is available online for download](#).

home to major industrial employers such as BSH Home Appliances, Craven Wood Energy and Minges Bottling Group.

- **Robeson County:** A \$1,000,000 grant to assist in the upgrade and repair of a wastewater treatment facility serving Prestage Farms' turkey processing facility in St. Pauls. The company maintains a local workforce of 380, making it one of the county's largest private employers. The project is expected to extend the viability of the plant for another 30 years.

The RIA approved three loans under the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Downtown Redevelopment Fund program and one loan under the CDBG-Economic Development program:

- **Town of Hayesville (Clay County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the reuse of two vacant buildings near the county's historic courthouse.
- **Town of Williamston (Martin County):** A \$335,000 loan to support the reuse of three vacant buildings in downtown Williamston.
- **Town of Rutherfordton (Rutherford County):** A \$311,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building constructed in 1923 and vacant for 21 years.
- **Richmond County:** A \$545,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant industrial building in Rockingham by Direct Pack, Inc. Governor McCrory announced the company's choice of Richmond County for a 94-job East Coast operations hub earlier this month. The loan supports a total capital investment of \$6,245,000.

The RIA approved a total of 10 grants under the state's Building Reuse program:

- **City of Goldsboro (Wayne County):** A \$200,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by Goldsboro Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, a start-up practice that will create 20 jobs. The grant will support a total capital investment of \$1,478,000.
- **Alexander County:** A \$300,000 grant to support the renovation of a vacant building in Taylorsville that will facilitate a 30-job expansion at Craftmaster Furniture. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$1,754,000.
- **Mitchell County:** A \$46,850 grant to support the expansion of a building in Spruce Pine to support New Buck Corporation's five-job expansion. The family-owned company manufactures wood stoves. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$154,675.
- **City of Lenoir (Caldwell County):** A \$500,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building that will house an expansion by Exela. The pharmaceutical manufacturer will create 40 new jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$2,553,462.
- **Town of Granite Falls (Caldwell County):** A \$125,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by 80 Acres Investments. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$250,000 and will create ten jobs.
- **City of Newton (Catawba County):** A \$253,750 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by Temprano Techvestors. The start-up company, which provides marketing and technology services, will create 21 jobs.
- **Town of Scotland Neck (Halifax County):** A \$25,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by Café 59. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$154,895 and will create five new jobs.



Holly Yanker (center) from the Business Link North Carolina team talks with attendees at the veterans' event.

BLNC Offers Advice and Referrals to Business-minded Veterans

Business Link North Carolina (BLNC), the unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) that provides information and referrals to business resources participated in the N.C. Veteran's Business Association 2016 Procurement Summit, held August 17 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

The event helped BLNC in its mission to support, educate and connect veterans with business resources to gain additional success.

Several hundred people attended the event, which highlighted topics such as financing, agribusiness and certification programs.

BLNC's service is for anyone who wants to know more about doing business in North Carolina.

[BLNC.gov website.](http://BLNC.gov)

N.C. in the News

- [Taiwan industrial mission inks 4 cooperation pacts in US](#) (*Taiwan Today* - August 29)
- [\[Opinion\] Skvarla: Backing up the Carolina Comeback](#) (*News & Observer* - August 25)
- [These Are Pioneers: Schools, companies celebrate first CAP apprentices](#) (*Times - News* - Burlington - August 25)
- [NCWorks connects unemployed with jobs](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - August 24)
- [NC Commerce Secretary touts small business importance in Greenville visit](#) (*WNCT-TV* - August 24)

Lee County: A \$80,000 grant to support reuse of a vacant building in Sanford that will facilitate the relocation of Boston Fruit Slice & Confectionery, creating 16 jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$611,850.

- **Macon County:** A \$187,500 grant to support reuse of a vacant building in Franklin that will house TekTone Sounds & Signal Mfg. Governor McCrory announced the company's 70-job expansion in June. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$554,222.
- **City of Marion (McDowell County):** A \$25,000 grant for reuse of a vacant building that will house Fat Boy's Burritos. The start-up eatery will create five jobs.

The RIA approved a total of three grants under the state's Economic Infrastructure program:

- **City of Shelby (Cleveland County):** A grant of \$250,000 for sewer service to support an expansion by Huesker, Inc. The German-based company's expansion is creating 20 new jobs. The project connects the company's expanded facilities to city sewer service. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$8,000,000.
- **Harnett County:** A \$125,000 grant for water service in support of a sweet potato processing operation at Dupree Farms Produce. The facility will create 25 new jobs and the grant supports a total capital investment of \$2,000,000.
- **Town of Bethel (Pitt County):** A \$24,375 grant to support the demolition of a former police station. The building was constructed in 1952 and is not salvageable. The project will enable the town to market the site to a private developer.

"These projects help businesses large and small succeed and grow in North Carolina" said **Commerce Secretary Skvarla**. "The results-oriented team at N.C. Commerce, working under the RIA's guidance, applies considerable creativity in partnering with communities around our state to maximize prospects for job creation."



The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at N.C. Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. For more information on how your community can benefit from these funds, visit our website at nccommerce.com/rd.

[Read more.](#)

[Craftmaster Furniture in Alexander County Receives \\$300K Renovation Grant](#) (WHKY-AM - August 24)

- [HAECO to add 100 more jobs than expected in new hangar](#) (News & Record - Greensboro - August 22)
- [Local colleges to offer training for CSX jobs](#) (Rocky Mount Telegram - August 22)
- [Rouzer to co-host economic summit](#) (The Robesonian - Lumberton - August 22)
- [North Carolina jobless rate falls to 9-year low in July](#) (Winston-Salem Journal - August 20)
- [Tourism-related spending in Dare County tops \\$1 billion again](#) (The Outer Banks Voice - August 18)

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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