

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



A 'selfie' taken by the Curiosity Rover on the planet Mars. Equipment from Advanced Superabrasives in Madison County, N.C. is included in the mobile lab's scientific instrument package.

Gov. Cooper Announces 47 New Jobs at Advanced Superabrasives in Madison County

Advanced Superabrasives, Inc., a manufacturer of premium high performance grinding wheels and equipment, will expand operations at its existing facility in Mars Hill, creating 47 full-time jobs over four years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 25. The company will invest \$26 million in its expansion in Madison County.

"North Carolina's top-flight manufacturing workforce makes our state the right choice for companies looking to grow into the future," **Governor Cooper** said. "Advanced Superabrasives' expansion is just the latest example that top manufacturers have confidence in our state and our workers."

Advanced Superabrasives manufactures industrial grinding machines and has won international respect for its superabrasive grinding wheels, used by the automotive, aerospace, medical and wood working industries, among others. One of the company's grinding wheels is currently in use on the planet Mars, part of the scientific package aboard the Curiosity Rover. All Advanced Superabrasives products are manufactured and distributed worldwide from their facility in Mars Hill.

"Companies with experience in North Carolina understand the advantages of doing business here," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "It's wonderful to see another manufacturer choose to expand their operations in our state."



Workers at the Siemens plant in Charlotte (file photo).

North Carolina Joins National Academy on Work-Based Learning

North Carolina has been selected to take part in a national project to create and expand work-based learning opportunities to connect young people with career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (October 31).

North Carolina is one of six states selected by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices to participate in a policy academy focused on increasing high-quality work-based learning. Work-based learning blends work experience and applied learning to develop students' and young adults' foundational and technical skills so they can take advantage of education, career and employment opportunities.

"By linking education with business, North Carolina will develop a workforce with the right skills for the right jobs," **Governor Cooper** said. "This national effort will help us identify and harness the best ways to give young people in our state real-world knowledge and exposure to successful careers."

Funded by the Siemens Foundation, the policy academy will help states develop and grow work-based learning opportunities for people ages 16 to 29. The effort will focus on connecting young people with careers in industries where STEM skills are needed most, such as advanced manufacturing, health care, information technology and energy.

"North Carolina values its manufacturing companies, both large and small," said **Jonathan Szucs, General Manager for Advanced Superabrasives**. "Our company is proud to do business here and we look forward to growing in the state for many years to come."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$33,829 annually. Madison County's average wage is \$31,560.

A performance-based grant of \$100,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Advanced Superabrasives' expansion in Madison County. 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 [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](#), [Madison County](#), the [Town of Mars Hill](#), and [Madison County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Japanese Ambassador to the United States Kenichiro Sasae; Bob Rolfe, Economic & Community Development Commissioner for Tennessee; Governor Cooper; Minor Shaw, Chair of the Southeast's association; Teruo Asada, Chairman of the Japanese association, and Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi.

Governor Cooper Leads State's Delegation to SEUS/Japan

North Carolina strengthened relationships and economic ties with Japan last week as state economic development and business officials represented the state at the 40th Annual Southeast U.S./Japan Conference, held in Greenville, South Carolina. Nearly 470 delegates from seven Southeast states and the nation of Japan attended the meeting. Governor Roy Cooper led the state's delegation to the conference.

The SEUS/Japan Conference, operating since 1976, remains one of the highest-potential opportunities to engage top Japanese business and government officials.

The conference, which rotates each year between Japan and southeast locations, will next convene in Tokyo, October 18-20, 2018.

Along with North Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Nevada, and Rhode Island were selected to participate in the policy academy.

North Carolina's team includes membership from the Governor's office, North Carolina Business Committee for Education, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Instruction, and NC Community College System.



Secretary Copeland and Commissioner Troxler Discuss Ag Topics

With the 150th edition of the North Carolina State Fair as a backdrop, N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland and N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler met recently to discuss agriculture and its importance to the state's economy.

Agriculture represents a significant portion of the North Carolina economy. Farm cash receipts topped \$11.6 billion in 2015, according to statistics published by the N.C. Department of Agriculture.



Veterans Life Center To Open in Butner

Both of North Carolina's United States Senators attended a ground breaking ceremony on October 27 for the the 100-bed Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner. The VLC will provide transitional housing, medical care and job training to veterans who are having a hard time transitioning back to civilian life when it opens in early 2019.

Rural Communities Receive \$3.97 Million in Grants, Attracting 386 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 12 grant requests on October 20, totaling \$3,977,855. The requests include commitments to create a total of 386 new jobs. An additional 145 new jobs associated with these grants had been previously announced.

"Infrastructure enhancements are a key ingredient to help our rural communities prepare for and compete for business," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Rural Infrastructure Authority, supported by the Rural Economic Development team here at Commerce, provides the support and expertise that makes a real difference for people's economic future."

In the latest round of grants, the RIA approved two requests from the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program in the City of Claremont and in Lenoir County.

The RIA approved two requests under the state's federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development program. Funds will go to the City of Raeford in Hoke County and the City of Asheboro in Randolph County.

The RIA also approved eight grants under the state's Building Reuse program, in locations statewide.

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

British Business Group to Address Multi-Generational Talent Issues

The Triangle chapter of the British-American Business Council will host an information and networking event on Tuesday, November 14 at the Research Triangle Park headquarters. The evening event, titled "Playing the Generation Game - Does Your Company Have a Winning Strategy," will bring together a panel of experts to explore the challenges that organizations can anticipate in recruiting, retaining, and developing multi-generational workers.

To register for the event, [visit the council's website](#).

Senator Thom Tillis and Senator Richard Burr offered remarks during the event.

The state's NCWorks system, supported in part by Commerce's Workforce Solutions team provides a variety of career services customized to meet the needs of the state's veterans.



All of us at Commerce wish you and your family a safe and happy Halloween!

On Our Radar

- [A New Study from MIT on Potential Job Loss Due to Automation](#) [additional reporting from [WRAL Techwire](#) about the [MIT Study](#)]

N.C. in the News

- [Raleigh and Charlotte are among the best cities in America to live, report says](#) (*News & Observer* - Oct. 31)
- [\\$15 Million Program Available to Help Small Businesses Affected by Hurricane Matthew](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - Oct. 30)
- [Triad community college opens \\$5M+ advanced manufacturing center](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - Oct. 30)
- [Locally, optimism remains high among small business owners](#) (*Courier-Tribune* - Asheboro - Oct. 28)
- [Eastern NC gains grant money to help infrastructure](#) (*WNCT-TV* - Greenville - Oct. 20)
- [Gov. Cooper visits Continental facility](#) (*The News Herald* - Morganton - Oct. 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](#).

(919) 814-4600

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Building Location:
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

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