



German Manufacturer to Invest \$6.5 Million in Henderson County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced November 18 that Elkamet Inc. will expand its manufacturing site in Henderson County. The company intends to add 25 workers at its East Flat Rock facility over the coming three years, investing \$6.5 million.

"Quality-minded manufacturers from around the world continue to turn to North Carolina and its renown business climate," said **Governor McCrory**. "Elkamet is adding 25 employees at its Henderson County facility, which speaks highly of the company's experience here in North Carolina."

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

Elkamet Inc. is the U.S. unit of Elkamet Kunststofftechnik GmbH, a family-owned company headquartered in Biedenkopf, Germany. Elkamet specializes in manufacturing custom rotational molded plastics, such as hydraulic oil tanks, as well as finishing extruded products, like windshield profiles.

The facility in East Flat Rock, the company's only plant outside Europe, opened in 2007 and currently employs 108 workers. Products made in Elkamet's East Flat Rock facility can be found in finished goods made by Ford, Volkswagen, and Caterpillar.

"Our state's productive workforce, competitive cost-structure and connections to major markets will continue to support Elkamet's growth strategy," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "The company's success speaks to all the assets and amenities that make North Carolina the Southeast's No. 1 state for manufacturing jobs."

"The growth Elkamet has experienced over the last five years is certainly due, in part, to the local support we continue to receive from the Henderson County Partnership for Economic



North Carolina Tops Forbes List of Best States for Business

For the second consecutive year, North Carolina is the nation's No. 2 best state for business according to Forbes magazine. Forbes' annual "Best States for Business" list measures which states have the best business climates and are poised to succeed going forward. North Carolina is the only state in the southeast to be ranked in the top five.

"This ranking is further affirmation that our pro-growth economic policies and excellent business climate have once again made North Carolina a top destination for jobs," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "Our economy continues to outperform the nation as we are home to the most improved tax climate in the country and have added more than 300,000 new jobs since 2013."

Forbes' "Best States for Business" rankings are based on an assessment of criteria that include job growth, costs, educational attainment and start-up activity. Among the highlights of North Carolina's ranking is the cost to do business in the state, which is 10 percent below the national average.

Earlier this month, Site Selection magazine gave North Carolina the No. 2 position in its annual rankings of America's best states for business, also for the second year in a row. In May, Chief Executive magazine named North Carolina the nation's No. 3 best business climate for 2016.

Development, the State of North Carolina and the qualified pool of those seeking employment from which we pull to build our fine team," said **Elkamet Plant Manager Brent Coston**. "Having been born and raised in Henderson County, it is great to be a part of something that will benefit the people of this county."

Elkamet's expansion was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$35,000 from the One North Carolina Fund. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state.

[Read more.](#)

One North Carolina Small Business Grants Go to 29 Companies

The One North Carolina Small Business Program has awarded \$1.7 million to 29 small companies across 13 North Carolina communities. The companies will use the funds to develop new products, hire additional employees, and purchase equipment and materials.

"The One NC Small Business Program helps spur the growth of companies with strong chances of becoming the powerhouse employers of tomorrow," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "This program is a critical tool to help expand our state's innovation economy."

The program provides state grants to match federal funds awarded through the highly competitive Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which help companies develop new and innovative technologies that have high potential for commercialization.

Data shows that the program helps young technology companies survive. Since the program's creation in 2005, 85 percent of grant recipients are still in business. Moreover, 98 percent of the surviving companies are still based in North Carolina.

Reflecting the state's strengths in biosciences, 86 percent of the awards went to businesses in this industry. The majority of these companies were in biotechnology segments, followed by pharmaceuticals, general medical, medical software and hardware, and advanced materials.

Clairvoyant Technology LLC, a current recipient, is developing new wireless and sensor technology to track objects in areas such as agriculture and manufacturing. "The One NC Small Business matching program has allowed us to expand our research and development capabilities through the addition of sophisticated test and measurement equipment, further allowing us to develop our products," said **Dr. Thomas Frederick, president of Clairvoyant**. The Durham company currently has seven employees.

The Office of Science, Technology & Innovation, part of North Carolina Commerce, is still accepting grant applications for the 2017 fiscal year. Eligible applicants must receive a federal SBIR/STTR grant between July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The program awards funds on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are exhausted. For additional information, [see the current solicitation here](#).

One North Carolina Small Business Awards, July 1, 2016 -

"Historic reforms to our tax, regulatory and service-delivery climate have not only yielded some of the strongest economic growth in the country, but have earned accolades from the nation's business media," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**.

Since Governor McCrory entered office in January 2013, North Carolina's economy is one of the fastest growing in the nation adding more than 300,000 net new jobs. The state's unemployment rate during that time fell from 8.8 percent to 4.7 percent and has decreased in all 100 counties. The governor also signed historic, pro-growth tax reform saving families and businesses \$4.7 billion and positioning North Carolina as the most improved business tax climate in the nation.



N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla (right) greets apprentices working at Bühler AeroGlide in Cary (file photo)

Commerce Invests More in Apprenticeships through Federal Grant

More North Carolina students will learn about how to train for an industry and get an education, thanks to a major new investment by the state to increase awareness of apprenticeships.

Through ApprenticeshipUSA, N.C. Commerce will receive \$1.05 million to fund the N.C. Apprenticeship Expansion project, which will expand apprenticeships in manufacturing, logistics/transportation, health care, and information technology. The state will increase the participation of individuals, modernize information management technologies, expand the state's capacity to register such programs, and increase awareness through outreach efforts. The expansion effort will serve 1,500 apprentices, with a focus on youth, incumbent workers, individuals with disabilities, minorities, women, and the economically disadvantaged.

Apprentices are paid employees who learn both on the job and in the classroom. Youth apprentices receive tuition waivers to pay for the cost of classes. When they graduate, apprentices often stay at the business that trained them, helping employers to overcome

October 30, 2016:

- \$65,000 – **Advanced Hydrogen Technologies** – Hickory – *New materials for human joints*
- \$65,000 – **Affinergy** – Research Triangle Park – *Improvements in the quality of saliva/mucus slides*
- \$49,944 – **Algaen** – Winston-Salem – *New forms of Omega-3 for cardiovascular disease*
- \$37,500 – **Assist Equipment Development** – Cary – *A socket-suspension system for amputees*
- \$65,000 – **Baebies** – Durham – *Devices for fast screening of newborns*
- \$48,214 – **BioMojo** – Cary – *Bio-mathematical models of tissues and organ properties*
- \$65,000 – **Camras Vision** – Research Triangle Park – *Development of a new-generation shunt to enable precise control of intraocular pressure*
- \$65,000 – **Chaperone Therapeutics** – Chapel Hill – *Drug for prevention of noise-induced hearing loss*
- \$65,000 – **CivaTech Oncology** – Research Triangle Park – *Evaluation of new treatments for pancreatic cancers*
- \$49,850 – **Clairvoyant Technology** – Durham – *Location tracking of livestock using sensor tags*
- \$65,000 – **Clinical Sensors** – Durham – *Sensors that identify wounds unlikely to heal*
- \$32,347 – **Collaborations Pharmaceuticals** – Fuquay Varina – *More effective and less intrusive drugs for tuberculosis*
- \$49,900 – **CTW Development Company** – Charlotte – *Minimization of landed parachute evidence*
- \$65,000 – **Dignify Therapeutics** – Research Triangle Park – *A new product that induces "on demand" bladder voiding*
- \$65,000 – **Element Genomics** – Bahama – *Technology for screening of gene regulation*
- \$65,000 – **Enformia** – Huntersville – *Diagnostics for neuro problems from cancer therapies*
- \$65,000 – **EpiCypher** – Durham – *Novel therapies for certain types of cancer*
- \$43,155 – **Geometric Data Analytics** – Chapel Hill – *Use of multiple data sources for big data insights*
- \$65,000 – **Health Outcomes** – Chapel Hill – *Using smartphones for early detection of schizophrenia*
- \$65,000 – **HepatoSys** – Cornelius – *Re-use of human livers declined for transplant*
- \$30,000 – **InnAVasc Medical** – Durham – *New vascular grafts to improve dialysis operations*
- \$65,000 – **Lumedica** – Durham – *Low-cost retinal screening for doctor's offices*
- \$61,724 – **Neuro10-9 Pharma** – Chapel Hill – *Nasal drug for the treatment of obesity*
- \$65,000 – **OncoTAb** – Charlotte – *Development of targeted therapies for tumors*
- \$65,000 – **Prevention Strategies** – Greensboro – *Data analytics and modeling for bio-informatics*
- \$65,000 – **Ribometrix** – Greenville – *Commercialized drugs for faulty genes*
- \$65,000 – **Sirga Adv. Biopharma** – Research Triangle Park – *New drugs for drug resistant HIV*
- \$65,000 – **SonoVol** – Research Triangle Park – *New drugs for liver diseases*
- \$65,000 – **Zen-Bio** – Research Triangle Park – *A novel class of anti-acne therapeutics*

the skills gap that prevents them from finding qualified workers.

"I want every student in North Carolina to know that they can get an education and start their career without debt by joining an apprenticeship," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "Apprenticeships are a great deal for both students and employers. They're preparing people for well-paying jobs and helping employers develop the talent they need to grow and succeed."

Under Governor Pat McCrory's leadership, North Carolina has heavily invested in apprenticeships and ensured that more young people use these programs to begin their careers. Governor McCrory eliminated the fees for participating businesses and secured an additional \$500,000 for apprenticeships in this year's state budget, along with \$110,000 in tuition waivers for youth apprentices enrolled in North Carolina's community college system during the current fiscal year.

ApprenticeshipUSA is a federal initiative through the U.S. Department of Labor to promote apprenticeships. North Carolina is one of 37 award recipients of the State Expansion Grants.

Employer-Led Career Plans Certified by NCWorks Commission

The NCWorks Commission has approved and endorsed seven regional plans to help people prepare and train for work.

NCWorks Certified Career Pathways are education and training plans designed by employers in collaboration with the state's workforce development and education professionals. Certified career pathways are being developed for high-demand jobs in many industry sectors to assist students and adults including individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own to prepare for careers in the most efficient way. Career pathways outline and define the following:

- Necessary courses at the high school and college level
- Required credentials
- Experience required and employers in the area who provide work-based learning activities related to that field
- Various certificates and degrees in the related field

Each pathway must be approved by the commission, which signed off on seven new pathways during its quarterly meeting on November 9 in Raleigh.

"People need to know the skills and



Healthcare in Focus at December British-American Business Meeting

Two experts familiar with the British and American healthcare systems will discuss the differences between the United Kingdom and U.S. healthcare systems at the next meeting of the Triangle chapter of the British-American Business Council.

Dr. Jonathan Sheffield and Patrick Getzen will address the group, a leading transatlantic business organization in the Carolinas dedicated to helping its members build international business ties. Sheffield, Chief Executive Officer of the U.K.'s National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network was trained as a doctor at Dundee University and has served in several high-ranking positions in the British healthcare system. Getzen is the Chief Actuary for BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina with over 20 years experience in the health insurance industry.

The event will take place December 8 at the BlueCross headquarters in Durham. Registration and networking begin at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

Happy
THANKSGIVING

N.C. Commerce will observe state holidays this week on Thursday and Friday, November 24-25.

All of us are thankful for the work you do every day to support economic development in your community and all across North Carolina.

From our Commerce family to yours, best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving!

credentials they'll need to be successful in their chosen careers," said **Will Collins**, executive director of NCWorks. "That's why these career pathways are so important. Employers lead the way by working with our workforce and education agencies to provide the skill and training workers need to meet industry demands."

Three pathways were developed for Caswell, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnson, Person, Vance, Wake, and Warren counties. The Capital Area, Kerr-Tar, and Durham workforce development boards also worked on those pathways, which cover information technology, advanced manufacturing, and health sciences, respectively.

A second advanced manufacturing pathway was developed for Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrell, Washington, and Wilson counties. This process was facilitated by the Northeastern, Region Q, and Turning Point workforce development boards.

The Mountain Area Workforce Development Board helped develop an advanced manufacturing pathway for Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

Region C Workforce Development Board helped create an advanced manufacturing pathway for Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

A nursing pathway was developed for Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties. This pathway was developed with the help of the Northwest Piedmont, DavidsonWorks, Guilford County, and Regional Partnership workforce development boards.

The commission has approved a total of nine certified career pathways in 2016.

N.C. in the News

- [The State of Small Business: North Carolina](#) (*Business News Daily* - November 18)
- [State Scores More High Marks For Economy](#) (*News & Observer* - November 16)
- [Millennial magnet: Charlotte ranks as top city in young-adult population growth](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - November 16)
- [North Carolina's Booming Chemical](#)



[Industry - By The Numbers](#) (ChemInfo - November 2016)

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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