

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$24 MILLION DUPONT EXPANSION
One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Create 66 Jobs in Lenoir County

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that DuPont will expand its Kinston facility in Lenoir County, initially investing \$24 million and creating 66 jobs during the next three years. Total investment of \$55 million is projected. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“DuPont’s decision to expand in North Carolina solidifies our reputation as a world leader in nonwoven textiles, which contributes more than \$3 billion a year to our state’s economy,” said Easley. “Our business-friendly climate and low tax burden are helping existing industries, such as DuPont, succeed and grow in our state.”

DuPont, which employs more than 60,000 workers in 70 countries worldwide, will manufacture DuPont™ Sorona® polymer at the Kinston plant. The corn-derived polymer requires 30 to 40 percent less energy to produce and is used in clothing, carpeting, upholstery, plastics and other items. The FORTUNE 100 company has operated on the Kinston site since 1953.

The new jobs will be primarily skilled manufacturing positions that pay an average of \$680 a week plus benefits, which is above the Lenoir County average of \$495 a week, not including benefits.

“Kinston is special to the DuPont Bio-Based Materials business because it is where we discovered the recipe for making DuPont™ Sorona®, the product that is being made here today,” said DuPont Vice President and General Manager John Ranieri. “I am proud and honored to say that we are now taking this proprietary technology from concept to commercial scale reality with the expansion of our operations in Lenoir County.”

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in recruiting and expanding quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the Governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, more than 17,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

“This is a great opportunity for the hard-working people of Eastern North Carolina,” said Sen. John Kerr (D-Greene, Pitt and Wayne). “With cutting-edge technology and high-paying jobs, DuPont’s expansion shows the potential for our region.”

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Department of Transportation, N.C. Community College System, Lenoir County, Lenoir Committee of 100, N.C.’s Eastern Region partnership, Progress Energy and the Golden LEAF Foundation.

For more information about DuPont™ Sorona® or potential job opportunities, visit www.dupont.com

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