

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 70 NEW JOBS, \$40 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR BUNCOMBE CO.

RALEIGH— Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Jacob Holm Industries, a nonwoven manufacturer, will locate its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Asheville creating 70 new jobs and \$40 million in investment.

“North Carolina competed with Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia for this project and our number one ranked business climate won again,” said Easley. “Jacob Holm Industries’ decision to locate its facility in North Carolina is proof that our investments in education and infrastructure are bringing good jobs to hard-working families in our state.”

Jacob Holm Industries will receive a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund, along with support from Buncombe County, the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is also supporting this development with two *Moving Ahead!* projects that will improve access to the new facility.

“By making smart, targeted investments in education, our workforce and economic recruitment tools such as the One North Carolina Fund, North Carolina has set itself apart from other states by earning the reputation of the nation’s best business climate,” said Easley. “In the past three years, the One North Carolina Fund has helped us recruit more than 12,000 jobs and \$1 billion in investment for our state.”

Jacob Holm Industries, headquartered in Switzerland, is a leading manufacturer of high-quality nonwoven roll goods and employs 225 people worldwide. They manufacture specialty hydroentangled nonwoven roll goods that are found in baby wipes, cosmetic cloths, household and institutional cleaning towels, and medical articles. Worldwide customers include Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, SC Johnson, L’Oreal, Beiersdorf and others.

Construction on the company’s new 150,000-square-foot building in the Asheville Commerce Park will begin in the next two months. The 70 new jobs will include both hourly and salaried positions, with the total payroll offering an average salary of \$674 per week.

“Despite strong competition, North Carolina and Buncombe County have proven to be an excellent choice for our first U.S. facility,” said Michael Norboge, Director of Sales for Jacob Holm Industries (America), Inc. “We expect to have a positive effect on the community. Our business and our employees will benefit from the unique features of the region both now and in the future.”

For more information on employment with Jacob Holm Industries, visit the company’s website at <http://www.jacob-holm.com>.

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