

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 212 JOBS IN NASH COUNTY
One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Hanes Geo-Components Expand in Middlesex

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Hanes Geo-Components, a landscaping supply company, will open a manufacturing and distribution facility in Nash County, creating 212 jobs and investing \$4.5 million during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$212,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

“Hanes Geo-Components’ decision to locate in Nash County is a testament to our No. 1 ranked business climate,” Easley said. “We will continue to make the necessary investments in workforce development and education so that we remain the top choice for companies wanting to expand.”

Hanes Geo-Components, a subsidiary of Winston-Salem-based Hanes Companies, assembles and distributes erosion control and landscaping supplies including grass seed, fertilizer, pesticides, erosion control matting and fencing. It employs 65 people at facilities in Charlotte, Greensboro, Middlesex and Leland. The company also has operations in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The company is building a 200,000 square-foot facility in Middlesex for assembly and distribution of erosion control and stabilization supplies throughout the United States and Canada. While wages will vary by job function, the average weekly wage of the new jobs will be \$642 plus benefits, which is more than the Nash County average weekly wage of \$576 not including benefits.

“Hanes is excited to increase our investment in North Carolina-based operations,” said John Dowdell, president of Hanes Geo-Components. “We believe the North Carolina business environment and North Carolinian work ethics provide us a strong foundation on which to continue to build our business.”

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. One North Carolina Fund grants require and are contingent upon a local match. Through the use of this Fund, more than 20,000 jobs and \$3 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

“North Carolina’s emphasis on education and a business-friendly climate makes companies such as Hanes Geo-Components want to grow and expand here,” said state Sen. A.B. Swindell (D-Nash).

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“State and local agencies worked together to bring these new jobs to our area,” said state Rep. Bill Daughtridge (R-Nash). “North Carolina will continue to provide economic development programs that attract growing businesses.”

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, Nash County, Town of Middlesex, Carolinas Gateway Partnership and Progress Energy. For more information about the company and employment opportunities, contact Allen Fisher at (252) 235-4300.

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