

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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Alcoa to invest \$25 million for Hampton expansion, add 75 jobs

June 17, 2014 –Alcoa officials, flanked by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Hampton Mayor George Wallace, on Tuesday announced a major expansion of the company’s Hampton plant.

“This is an exciting time for Alcoa, an exciting time for Hampton, and an exciting time to be in the aerospace market,” said Michael Pepper, president of Alcoa Power and Propulsion.

Pepper announced that the company’s “breakthrough technology” to reduce the weight of jet engine blades by 20 percent will be commercialized in Hampton. “Alcoa’s investment in Hampton builds on a positive, 40-year track record, and reinforces our on-going, collaborative relationship with both the Commonwealth and the City of Hampton,” he noted.

Speaking to a standing-room crowd of regional business leaders and officials, McAuliffe said: “Alcoa has been a solid corporate institution in Hampton for 40 years, and this major investment in new technology will ensure the longevity of its operation for decades to come. Advanced manufacturing is thriving in Virginia, and expansions like this help to diversify our economy and grow jobs of the 21st century. This project is a great testament to Alcoa’s commitment to Virginia, and the advantages of the Commonwealth’s top-rate business environment that helps valued global companies succeed.” Wages for the jobs will be above average for the region.

“Alcoa has been a longtime anchor employer in the City of Hampton. I am extremely pleased that Alcoa chose to expand in Hampton by adding a new advanced manufacturing product line that will generate high-paying jobs,” said Hampton Mayor George Wallace. “Hampton is an excellent city for new and expanding businesses. We are proud of our highly skilled workforce, friendly neighborhoods, excellent schools and quality of life that is incomparable.”

The governor also announced a \$200,000 grant from the Governor’s Opportunity Fund to assist Hampton with the project, and a \$450,000 performance-based grant from the Virginia Investment Partnership program. The company is also eligible for incentives from other state programs.

Alcoa currently employs 650 people at its Hampton facility in Copeland Industrial Park. Alcoa will add equipment for a new production line and modify existing machinery at the Hampton facility to produce the blades, using such advanced manufacturing technology as robotics and digital x-ray for enhanced product inspection. The expansion will begin this month and is expected to be complete by the fourth quarter of 2015. Worldwide, Alcoa employs 60,000 people at facilities in 30 countries.

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