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Husqvarna to hire 160 in Charlotte

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Susan Stabley](#) Staff Writer

Husqvarna will bring 160 jobs to the area and receive \$2 million in job-development grants as it establishes its North and Latin American headquarters in north Charlotte.

The company plans to invest \$8.25 million in new property and is in discussion with Beacon Partners for 100,000 square feet at Harris Corners Corporate Park at Exit 18 on Interstate 77.

While salaries will vary by job type, the overall average annual wage for the 160 new jobs will be \$79,453, not including benefits. That is significantly higher than the Mecklenburg County average of \$48,776.

N.C. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Dale Carroll made the announcement Thursday morning at Husqvarna's facility at 7349 Statesville Road, which the company will exit when the new building is complete.

In August, the *Charlotte Business Journal* reported that Husqvarna, a Swedish manufacturer of outdoor equipment, planned to establish the operations here.

The company — which makes chain saws, lawn mowers and other landscaping power tools — has been consolidating its national white-collar workers at the north Charlotte facility. That includes moving employees here from Husqvarna Outdoor Products in Augusta, Ga., which is scheduled for closure.

Husqvarna expanded its Charlotte operations in 1999 to a 166,288-square-foot warehouse at 7349 Statesville Road. A 50,000-square-foot office was completed next door two years later, and more than 160 are employed there.

Thursday's news follows a Dec. 16 announcement by Swedish home-appliance manufacturer **Electrolux AB** that it will establish its North American headquarters in Charlotte, bringing at least 738 jobs to the region over the next five years.

The global appliance maker will lease the 225,000-square-foot former First Charter Corp. headquarters building in the University area for the consolidation of seven business units.

Electrolux North America says it will invest \$8.3 million in the new headquarters, with hiring slated to start at the end of the first quarter. Most of the jobs are expected to be filled by relocating workers.

It's the largest corporate relocation to Charlotte since 1984, when insurer Royal & SunAlliance USA moved here.

Electrolux currently has 650 employees in North Carolina, the majority at a dishwasher-manufacturing plant in Kinston, one of eight factories in North America.

Husqvarna was spun off from Electrolux several years ago.

Thursday's news also follows **Zenta Mortgage Services'** Dec. 22 announcement that it will hire 1,000 workers here, including 250 in the next 12 months. The company is making Charlotte the center of its operations in North America.