

Environment & Energy

Wolfspeed Plans Semiconductor Hub Build for North Carolina

By Zach Bright

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- Company will invest \$5 billion over eight years
 - Will produce silicon carbide semiconductors
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Wolfspeed Inc. plans to invest about \$5 billion over the next eight years to develop a semiconductor manufacturing hub in Siler City, N.C., that will enable more clean energy development, Gov. Roy Cooper announced Friday.

Wolfspeed will create silicon carbide semiconductors, an important component in the assembly of electric vehicles, 5G networks, and renewable energy and storage.

"Wolfspeed's decision further validates North Carolina as the epicenter of clean energy," Cooper (D) said in a statement. "This is another milestone in our drive toward a clean energy economy as it will boost electric vehicle manufacturing and offshore wind while fighting climate change and putting money in the pockets of every day North Carolinians with great paying jobs."

The project is expected to create more than 1,800 jobs by 2030, the governor's office said in a statement. Wolfspeed is based in Durham, N.C.

"We are particularly excited and proud to not only expand Wolfspeed's footprint in our home state of North Carolina, but also our relationship with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to develop a workforce of the future," Wolfspeed President and CEO Gregg Lowe said in a statement. "The Chatham County facility will enable the increasing adoption of Silicon Carbide and will drive the dramatic growth of the technology as the power semiconductor market transitions from silicon to the much more efficient Silicon Carbide technology."

North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore (R) said in a statement that as the state continues "on the tried-and-true path of responsible economic growth that has made North Carolina so appealing, it is no surprise that more companies like Wolfspeed are expanding in our state."

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