

Project ENABLE

By Roger Johnson
 Director, Albemarle County Office of Economic Development

Albemarle County Economic Development continues to build the economic capacity of the County to ensure a thriving future and high quality of life for all. The County has found success is best achieved through collaboration and partnership. Partners like the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, our local business community, University of Virginia, the Chamber of Commerce, and other area non-profits are essential to creating better conditions for economic growth and career ladder employment opportunities.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors committed to a future where an extraordinary quality of life and economic vitality are assured through its strategic plan called “Project ENABLE: ENabling A Better Life Economically.” Learn more about Project ENABLE at enablealbemarle.org.

Success without Sacrifice

The community-led focus of Project ENABLE underlies its early successes. Economic development occurs without sacrificing environmental stewardship, quality of life, or the bucolic rural areas everyone appreciates. Collectively, our community can be assured these are not either-or propositions. The common understanding is that it would be an error to undermine Albemarle County’s unique character and distinction.

Innovative Local Projects Recognized Across the Commonwealth

Such collaborative economic development projects often attract the attention of state leadership. Over the last few months, the Governor’s Office visited Albemarle County twice to announce exciting economic development projects in the Rivanna Magisterial District. In October, Governor Northam announced an expansion by Bonumose, a food technology company, into the former State Farm Building. In December, Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, visited the County to announce an expansion by medical device innovator, RIVANNA®.

Bonumose is investing \$27.7 million in its expansion, with plans to add at least 64 jobs in the coming three years. Bonumose specializes in “healthy sugars” and plans to relocate from University of Virginia’s North Fork research park to the former State Farm building. The Hershey Company and American Sugar Refining, Inc. (best known as Domino Sugar) invested in Bonumose. They will partner with the company to develop healthy sugars to go into a multitude of versatile products, including chocolate.

CEO and co-founder Ed Rogers said the company wants to make healthy sugar affordable for the global mass market and positively impact public health. Other markets were courting Bonumose, but Albemarle



Governor Northam congratulates Bonumose CEO and Co-Founder Ed Rogers

County worked hard to keep Bonumose, and these quality jobs, in our community. By coupling customized solutions to their needs and providing financial support through local matches to the Governor’s grants, the County was able to keep Bonumose at home in Albemarle County. How sweet it is!

RIVANNA® is a privately held designer, manufacturer, and distributor of imaging-based medical solutions based in Albemarle County, near the Shadwell interchange (I-64 and Richmond Road). They operate an FDA-registered and ISO -certified manufacturing facility that produces the Accuro® product line.

Accuro® is the world’s first epidural guidance device specifically designed to improve safety, speed, and efficiency of spinal needle guidance procedures.

Additionally, RIVANNA® is creating a portable, computer-aided, 3D fracture detection system based on patented technologies that optimize ultrasound image acquisition and visualization. The rapid, radiation-free, bedside fracture detection device is expected to reduce bottlenecks in routine care and help military personnel and others determine when a fracture is present. This



Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Brian Ball



Will Mauldin, Ph.D., Chairman, CEO, and Co-founder Rivanna; Ned Gallaway Albemarle County, Board of Supervisors; Jeff Richardson Albemarle County, County Executive; Roger Johnson, Albemarle County, Office of Economic Development

innovative approach is expected, among other uses, to aid emergency departments in fast-tracking patient care for simple fractures and sprains. RIVANNA® received a contract from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to provide \$11.6 million over 24 months to develop this fracture detection product, with the potential for additional funding up to \$65 million. RIVANNA®’s efforts improve healthcare, create quality jobs, and make the world a better place.

Albemarle County is proud to support visionaries like Bonumose and RIVANNA® that continue to make substantial contributions to our community and the world.

For more information, contact Albemarle County Economic Development economicdevelopment@albemarle.org.



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