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Civica Inc. to Expand in Greater Richmond-Petersburg Region, Investing $27.8 Million for a New Testing Facility

Nonprofit generic drug company to create 51 new jobs at testing and R&D lab in Chesterfield County that will support Petersburg manufacturing operation

RICHMOND, VA - Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced that non-profit Civica Inc. (Civica) will invest $27.8 million to establish a new laboratory testing facility at Meadowville Technology Park in Chesterfield County. The company will construct a 55,000-square-foot facility to support Civica’s Petersburg pharmaceutical manufacturing operation through quality testing and development of new products. The project will create 51 new jobs. In addition, it will
host a scale-up manufacturing facility operated by Virginia Commonwealth University’s Medicines for All Institute, which will create additional employment.

“Civica’s investment is another transformational step forward in strengthening the advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in the Richmond-Petersburg region and positioning Virginia as a key player in domestic drug manufacturing in America,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin. “Civica is a critical partner in the Commonwealth’s emerging pharmaceutical ecosystem that will ensure access to affordable, lifesaving medications while providing high-quality jobs and an incredible boost to our economy.”

“Civica’s new laboratory testing facility in Chesterfield County extends the footprint of the rapidly growing pharmaceutical manufacturing cluster in the region and will support the coalition’s long-term vision to serve as the world’s central access point for advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing and R&D,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. “Today we celebrate Virginia’s vital role in addressing the shortage of affordable essential medicines in our nation and the investment in a new facility that will create high-paying jobs and accelerate research and innovation in the industry.”

“With this investment, Civica is building on its long-term commitment to patients – and to Virginia,” said Ned McCoy, Civica’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “This lab will support a skilled and highly trained workforce who will ensure Civica’s affordable insulin as well as other essential medicines meet the highest standards.”

“Chesterfield County is thrilled to have Civica’s new laboratory testing facility locate at the Meadowville Technology Park,” said Chesterfield Board of Supervisors Chairman Chris Winslow. “The new facility will play a key role in helping to support the manufacturing and testing of lower-cost generic drugs, which will help bring down costs for our residents.”

“Even prior to Civica's announcement that they would be placing their headquarters in Petersburg, I was proud of the beneficial products they created. Today, I am ecstatic that they will be investing significantly more in Central Virginia,” said Senator Joseph D. Morrissey. “With their $27.8 million investment, Civica will be a part of Virginia's much-needed workforce development initiatives. Thank you to Civica for providing Central Virginia, the Commonwealth, and beyond with jobs and necessary, lifesaving pharmaceuticals.”

“I want to welcome Civica to the hardworking manufacturing family in the 62nd district,” said Delegate Carrie E. Coyner. “We are thankful for your corporate commitment of bringing down the cost of medications and specifically to address the accessibility and costs of insulin. Our community is ready to provide the talent and resources for you to reach your goals.”

Civica is a nonprofit generic drug company launched in 2018 to address the problem of chronic generic drug shortages and high drug prices. In January 2021, Civica announced that it will establish a 140,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility to manufacture sterile injectable drugs in the City of Petersburg. In addition to manufacturing essential medicines hospitals use daily, Civica recently announced plans to manufacture and distribute insulins that, once approved, will be available to people with diabetes at significantly lower prices than insulins currently
on the market. Civica’s new laboratory testing facility in Chesterfield County is expected to be operational soon after the Petersburg plant reaches commercial scale in 2024.

The construction of the lab will be supported by an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to the Alliance for Building Better Medicine, a coalition that aims to expand essential medicines manufacturing in the Richmond-Petersburg region. Civica will provide matching capital.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Chesterfield County to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Youngkin approved a $400,000 grant from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund to assist Chesterfield County with the project.

Support for Civica’s job creation will continue to be provided through the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, a workforce initiative created by VEDP in collaboration with the Virginia Community College System and other higher education partners, with funding support from the Governor’s administration and the Virginia General Assembly. Launched in 2019, the program accelerates new facility start-ups through the direct delivery of recruitment and training services that are fully customized to a company’s unique products, processes, equipment, standards, and culture. All program services are provided at no cost to qualified new and expanding companies as an incentive for job creation.

Brightpoint Community College has built an innovative new training program for people to gain the qualifications needed to qualify for a high-paying Manufacturing Technician role in Civica’s new Petersburg facility. Applicants interested in the program or any of Civica’s wide range of professional career opportunities can visit civicarx.org/careers.

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The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation’s regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA invests in communities and supports regional collaboration in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.