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It's Official: Dell Opens For Business

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- Dell Chairman Michael Dell joined Gov. Mike Easley and a host of other politicians Wednesday to officially open the computer maker's newest and largest U.S. plant.

The company presented Easley with one of the first computers that came down the production run.

Dell said the Forsyth County plant will be a key facility for the company. He predicts that within 18 months it would be producing \$10 billion worth of computers a year.

The Round Rock, Texas-based company chose the rural site in the middle of tobacco farms after the state, city and Forsyth County won a bidding war by putting up \$318 million in grants and tax breaks. It is the richest incentives package in state history.

About 350 workers are already on the Dell payroll, and the company has pledged to hire as many as 1,500 people within five years.

Dell officials say the plant will be a good corporate citizen. Jobs will pay an average of \$28,000 a year.





"We sold 9.1 million computers in the last quarter and that just continues to grow," said Dell spokesman Travis Simpson. "So we have a good need to produce desktop computers as we continue to satisfy our customers, and that's what this plant is all about."

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