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Celgard breaks ground on Concord plant

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Celgard LLC held a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday at the site of what will soon become a 150,000-square-foot manufacturing plant.

Celgard, a leading supplier in microporous separators used in lithium-ion batteries, plans to begin building the plant later this year on more than 20 acres in the International Business Park just off Interstate 85 in Concord.

The Charlotte-based company is also expanding its facility in Charlotte. That expansion and the new Concord plant will create about 200 jobs, officials said.

The new plant will allow the company to expand capacity and support demand in the emerging electric car market, company officials said.

Celgard separators are also used in products such as digital cameras, laptop computers, power tools and cell phones.

Celgard is a wholly owned subsidiary of Polypore International Inc.

“We’re not here in North Carolina by chance,” said Celgard Vice President and General Manager Mitch Pulwer, thanking local officials for their support.

The Concord City Council earlier this year approved nearly \$1.2 million in incentive grants to Celgard LLC to build a research and manufacturing facility in Concord. The two-part grant offers Celgard a \$350,000 cash grant to be paid after the company bought the property and additional grants worth up to \$819,672 to be paid over four-year segments, provided that Celgard makes at least \$57.1 million in taxable improvements in the property.

The Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners approved a similar incentive package that will give Celgard \$350,000 for site preparation, as well as three four-year grants equivalent to 85 percent of the ad valorem taxes on the increase in real and personal property tax values associated with the property.

“We are happy you are in Concord,” Concord Mayor Scott Padgett told Celgard leaders.

U.S. Rep. Larry Kissell, D-N.C., worked with Celgard to help secure a \$49.2 million grant for

the project through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He spoke at the ceremony, saying more than 200 families won't have to worry about finding good jobs.

"That good job is going to be right here at Celgard," he said.



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