

Turbocoating to bring 110 jobs to Hickory

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An Italian company will spend \$15 million to open a 110-employee plant in Hickory for coating turbine engine blades.

Turbocoating Corp. USA expects to begin with a 60,000-square-foot space in Catawba Industrial Commons. The jobs will pay an average of \$56,377 per year, the company says. That compares with the average Catawba County wage of \$34,216.

It is Turbocoating's first operation in the U.S.

The company is establishing the plant because of demand within the energy industry, says **Nelso Antolotti**, president of the U.S. subsidiary and the Italian parent company. "We are all a victim of this globalization," he says.

The company will make coatings to protect gas turbine blades that are used in power generation.

Turbocoating announced its plans Friday during a press conference in Hickory. The company will receive \$110,000 in One North Carolina Fund money. Hickory and Catawba County leaders will meet next month to consider local incentives.

Turbocoating's plant fits in well with efforts to establish the Charlotte region as a major energy hub, says **Julie Pruett**, project director at Catawba County Economic Development Corp. The company's customers include **Siemens** and **General Electric**.