



# Major Happenings



**Amazon** continues to invest in Virginia with the launch of a new, state-of-the-art robotics fulfillment center on 119 acres in Henrico County. The company announced a multi-story, 650,000-square-foot facility with innovative robotics technology in April. The facility will be the first of its kind in Central Virginia and is anticipated to launch in 2022. “The launch of this state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Central Virginia will create more than 1,000 jobs with industry-leading pay and benefits starting on the first day of employment,” said Alicia Boler Davis, Amazon’s Vice President of Global Customer Fulfillment.

## 12 Fortune HQs

The Richmond Region is now home to 7 Fortune 500 headquartered companies and 5 additional firms that top the Fortune 1000. New companies to the list include the recent relocation of ASGN from California and the growth of ARKO, which owns the FasMart chain of convenience stores.

Home security system manufacturer **SimpliSafe** announced a \$3 million expansion in Henrico County in July, adding 250 jobs. In 2020, SimpliSafe opened its first customer support operation locally, which created 572 jobs. “The Richmond Region has proven to be the ideal place to launch SimpliSafe into its next phase of growth with our own state-of-the-art monitoring center,” said CEO Christian Cerda.



**SimpliSafe**

International firms are finding success in Greater Richmond. In June, **fDi Magazine** named the region a top American city for economic potential as well as human capital and lifestyle. The region also ranked 11th in foreign direct investment strategy.



**A Top City for Economic Potential**



**CoStar Group**, the leading provider of commercial real estate information, analytics and online marketplaces, announced two leases to support 400 new employees in May. “Since our decision to headquarter our global research operations in the City of Richmond in 2016, we have remained fully committed to the economic development and growth of this community,” said Lisa Ruggles, SVP of Global Research, Analytics and News.

Vehicle retailer **Carvana** announced in April that it plans to break ground on a \$25 million, 191,000-square-foot vehicle inspection and reconditioning facility in Chesterfield County. Temporarily paused by pandemic, the project could create more than 400 jobs for the region once completed by spring 2022.



**Grenova**, a sustainable biotech firm that offers reusable medical devices, announced a \$10.6 million, 250-employee expansion in April. “We’re proud to make our bold solution possible from our expanded headquarters in Richmond thanks to the Commonwealth’s thriving ecosystem of world-class talent, resources, and infrastructure,” said Ali Safavi, Founder and CEO.



**\$335 MILLION**

is granted annually to Virginia Commonwealth University in sponsored research, earning VCU the ‘Highest Research Activity’ designation by the Carnegie Foundation. This includes funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to reinvent how drugs are produced.



**Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority** finished construction of its new headquarters in Hanover in June. The \$91 million complex features a 95,000-square-foot office building and a 315,000-square-foot distribution center on a 40-acre site. ABC expects 500 employees will work there once it’s fully ramped up.



Virginia ranks as a top state in tech. Here in Greater Richmond, GE Cyber Security, Thomson Reuters and the WiPro have facilities. In February, **Vytal Studios**, a technology-based education and training content developer and producer, announced plans to invest \$6.8 million to relocate its headquarters from Austin, Texas, to the City of Richmond and create 155 new jobs.



**Facebook’s** first phase of its \$2 billion data center campus went online in August 2020. The campus connects to several subsea fiber cables offering the world’s fastest connectivity. Both Henrico and Chesterfield counties reduced their data center tax rates to \$0.40 per \$100 and \$0.24 per \$100, respectively.



Prosper here.