



Major Happenings



CoStar Group Inc., a leading provider of real estate information, analytics and online marketplaces, expects to invest more than \$460 million to expand in Richmond. CoStar announced in December 2021 its plans to establish a Corporate Campus that will include sales, marketing, software development, customer service and support functions on four acres adjacent to its current facility, which serves as the company's headquarters for research and data analytics. The project is expected to create 2,000 new jobs.



12 Fortune HQs

Greater Richmond 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.



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. In April 2021, the company announced a 650,000-square-foot facility with innovative robotics technology which will be the first of its kind in Central Virginia and is anticipated to launch in 2022.

StarPlast USA, a subsidiary of Israeli company Starplast, announced in January that it will invest approximately \$17.7 million to develop a new manufacturing facility in Chesterfield. Starplast USA produces a wide range of high-performance plastic products, like plastic housewares, garden storage and toys. Virginia successfully competed with Ohio and Pennsylvania for the project, which will create 300 new jobs over five years.



Home security system manufacturer **SimpliSafe** announced a \$3 million expansion in Henrico County in July 2021, 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.



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 the pandemic, the project could create more than 400 jobs for the region once completed by spring 2022.



In July 2021, CNBC named Virginia as its “Best State for Business” for successive rankings. It’s the first time a state has secured the spot for a second year in a row and Virginia has received this accolade more than any other state in this regular CNBC ranking. “Virginia has captured top honors five times — more than any other state — and is the first state to notch back-to-back wins.”



**\$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.



Mondelēz International Inc., a global snacking leader with iconic global and local brands such as OREO, Ritz and Chips Ahoy!, will be investing \$122.5 million in its Henrico County supply chain operations over three years. During the November 2021 announcement, the company revealed its investment includes a 68,000-square-foot expansion of the company’s Richmond bakery, which will support its current operations and enable the site to house a high-speed, modern OREO production line.

Grenova, a sustainable biotech firm that offers reusable medical devices, announced a \$10.6 million, 250-employee expansion in April 2021. “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.



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.



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