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Swedish outdoor equipment manufacturer Husqvarna will invest \$2.75 million in its new North American headquarters, bringing 160 jobs to Charlotte.

State and local economic-development officials were able to cement the consolidation of Husqvarna's national white-collar work force with a \$2.5 million grant.

"It's safe to say it's more competitive today than it has ever been," N.C. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Dale Carroll said at the company's announcement Thursday morning at Husqvarna's north Charlotte facility.

In August, the *Charlotte Business Journal* reported Husqvarna's plans to move workers here from Husqvarna Outdoor Products in Augusta, Ga., which would then be closed. The company had already employed about 160 workers at its Professional Products headquarters on 7349 Statesville Road.

But by fall, Charlotte found itself in competition with sites in South Carolina including locations in York County. Officials on the other side of the state line had made a play to lure Husqvarna's headquarters.

Justin Hunt, the Charlotte Chamber's vice president of economic and European development, said Charlotte was able to remain competitive because of the state subsidy. Hours before the announcement, the N.C. Economic Investment Committee awarded the company the state's Job Development Investment Grant. That money is tied to performance targets; Husqvarna must follow