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Google to locate in Lenoir

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Google Inc. will establish a data center in Lenoir, investing up to \$600 million and creating as many as 210 jobs over four years, according to the office of Gov. Mike Easley.

The state's Economic Investment Committee voted last month to award Google a Job Development Investment Grant worth as much as \$4.8 million. However, the total package of incentives and tax breaks used to lure the search-engine giant could total more than \$100 million over 30 years.

Easley says the grant awarded to Google as an incentive is the largest such Job Development Investment Grant the state has ever offered.

"It will help reinvigorate an area hard hit by the loss of furniture and textile jobs with 21st-century opportunities," he says.

California-based Google (NASDAQ:GOOG) hasn't revealed details about the operations planned for the Caldwell County facility.

In a statement, Lloyd Taylor, director of global operations for Google, says the center "will help support continued growth in our online services."

Wages at the data center will vary by job, but they are expected to average \$48,300 per year, excluding benefits. The average annual wage in Caldwell County is \$27,300.

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