

News

For Further Information:
Paul DeMichele, NYPA
(914) 390-8186
Paul.DeMichele@nypa.gov



North Country Alliance
Your business ally in Northern New York State.



Empire State Development



North Country Economic Development Fund Board Awards First Loan in Support of Nearly 90 Jobs in Northern New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE PLAINS—The board members for the North Country Economic Development Fund (NCEDF) approved last week a 10-year loan in the amount of \$225,000 to Carthage Specialty Paperboard, of Jefferson County, in support of 89 jobs, nine of which will be newly created over the next three years. The paper company will apply the capital toward increasing its production and distribution as part of a \$3-million expansion project.

The \$10 million loan fund was established in August to provide low-cost loans to businesses expanding their facilities and creating or retaining jobs in the North Country and it results from a long-term power contract between the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Alcoa, which has been a customer of NYPA since the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project was first placed into commercial operation in 1958.

The NCEDF is jointly administered by NYPA and the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), with Empire State Development (ESD) and North Country Alliance (NCA) representatives also serving on the NCEDF board.

“The first loan award is indicative of the great potential benefit that this fund will provide the North Country economy,” **said Gil C. Quiniones, president and chief executive officer, NYPA.** “Moving forward, these awards will complement the Power Authority’s many economic development initiatives in the region, with a high emphasis placed on the creation and retention of jobs.”

“The Authority is very pleased the initial loan is being made to a North Country manufacturer,” **said James Wright, chief executive officer for the Development Authority.** “The paper industry has changed, but the North Country can still compete when investments are made in specialty product lines. The ability to make this crucial investment was due to the North Country Economic Development Fund. We look forward to Carthage Specialty Papers continued dominance in the North American Market.”

Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adam said, “Through this innovative loan fund, New York State is providing North Country businesses like Carthage Specialty Paperboard the support they need to expand and grow. When our existing businesses succeed, they create and retain jobs and bring much needed investment in our local communities.”

In addition to the NCEDF loan, Carthage Specialty Paperboard also received loans from DANC, \$250,000; NCA, \$225,000; Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA), \$200,000; and the Village of Carthage, \$100,000.

“Although the name has changed over the years, this is one of the county’s legacy companies and we are glad to support them,” **said Donald C. Alexander, chief executive officer, JCIDA.** “They began operations in the late 1800s, and have not only survived, but are thriving and expanding by evolving and becoming industrial leaders in several key niche markets.”

The loans from the NCEDF are available for manufacturers, agri-business, clean and green biotechnology firms, assemblers and wholesale distributors, warehouses for the purpose of acquisition of land, building construction, and rehabilitation and for the purchase of machinery or equipment. Funding is also available for business improvement districts and not-for-profit entities eligible to apply for community revitalization projects. Retail and market applicants may also be eligible, but must meet special criteria in order to be considered for a loan.

Businesses looking to expand in St. Lawrence, Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Jefferson, Lewis, Hamilton or Herkimer County are eligible for funding and can visit the DANC website for more information [HERE](#). Expanding enterprises within the New York boundaries of the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation are also eligible.

In addition to the NCEDF loan program, NYPA resources have supported the creation of multiple economic development initiatives available to enterprises in the North Country. They include low-cost St. Lawrence hydropower (Preservation Power), the Greater Massena Economic Development Fund and low-cost hydropower and funding through the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency.

In total, more than \$22 million and 26 megawatts are currently available for deployment to eligible Northern New York businesses from NYPA, in addition to roughly 173 megawatts still available for businesses and not-for-profit organizations through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s statewide [ReCharge NY initiative](#).

About NYPA:

The New York Power Authority uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. ■ NYPA has been designated as the lead entity via Executive Order 88 by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to form a central management and implementation plan to carry out his [Build Smart NY](#) plan to reduce energy use by state facilities 20 percent by 2020. ■ NYPA is the nation's largest state public power organization, through the operation of its 16 generating facilities in various parts of New York State, participation in a unique public/private partnership to contract for power from a clean generating plant in Queens, and its operation of more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. ■ More than 70 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. Its lower-cost power production and electricity purchases support hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the state. ■ For more information visit www.nypa.gov or follow us on [Twitter](#) @NYPAAenergy, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Wordpress](#), and [LinkedIn](#).