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## 900 jobs headed to state Up to 400 possible at Duluth facility

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ATLANTA - Some bright economic news emerged from the Gold Dome on Tuesday in the form of a statement that would make any worker happy - more jobs are coming.

More than 900 will be created through an expansion to technology giant NCR's operations in Duluth and Peachtree City, according to an announcement made by the governor's office and the company.

"This is an amazing company with an amazing history," Gov. Sonny Perdue said of the Dayton, Ohio-headquartered outfit. "NCR has literally defined innovation in America."

Special Photo  
Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles Bannister speaks while Gov. Sonny Perdue, Christine Wallace of NCR, Mike Webster of NCR and Fayette County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jack Smith look on.

Perdue said that like NCR, which created the first motorized cash register, he wants Georgia to become a state that finds itself on the "cutting edge of creating innovative technology." He added that doing so will continue to attract companies to the state that want to grow their business.

In the announcement, NCR senior vice president Christine Wallace said that during the next 26 months Georgia will become the company's base of worldwide customer service. She added that the company plans to make a \$15 million capital investment to expand its existing facilities. The Peachtree City locale will become the company's center of excellence.

"We're at the leading edge of innovation," Wallace said. "We intend to grow and our strategy is to be the world leader in terms of connect, interact and transact."

Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles Bannister sat alongside NCR officials and the governor and praised the investment the company planned to make in Gwinnett.

"Economic development means more jobs, higher wages, more money a person makes and an increased tax base," Bannister said. "This is just the kind of development that the current commission had in mind when we were developing our economic development program."

Joe Allen, the director of the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, welcomed news of the expansion.

"This will be positive for Gwinnett Place and its retailers and the other folks in our area," Allen said.

According to Lauren Salas, a manager with the chamber's economic development arm, the talks with NCR about expanding in Duluth had been ongoing for the last year. She said she wasn't sure exactly how many jobs will come to Duluth as a result of the announcement.

"The company hasn't specifically announced anything yet, but we're comfortable with the 300-to-400 range of jobs," Salas said.

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