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NEWS RELEASE

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Fortis Solutions Group to Upgrade its Headquarters in Virginia Beach *Growth includes 15 new jobs*

Fortis Solutions Group, a label and flexible packaging manufacturer headquartered in Virginia Beach, has announced plans to upgrade its corporate headquarters facility at 2505 Hawkeye Court. The improvements will include an expansion of the parking area, upgrades to manufacturing and office spaces, HVAC units, new equipment and security measures.

The company will invest \$2.35 million in capital improvements bringing its overall investment in Virginia Beach to \$9.7 million. The headquarters renovation follows the company's recent acquisitions of Kopco Graphics and Color Craft Label in June 2015 and Smithfield Foods, Inc.'s label printing plant in December 2015.

"We are excited to support this industry-leading manufacturing company and their continued growth in Virginia Beach," said Warren D. Harris, director of Virginia Beach Economic Development. "The company employs 115 people in our community, and 15 new jobs will be added in the next 48 months."

"The City's support has been invaluable to us to continue our growth," said John O. Wynne, Jr., CEO. "The grant funds through YesOceana provide additional capital that make our expansion possible. In addition, these improvements enhance the area surrounding NAS Oceana so the expansion is beneficial in several ways."

The Virginia Beach Development Authority has approved an APZ-1 Economic Development Investment Program grant in the amount of \$100,000 based on the capital investment for this expansion. The location is within the YesOceana program area, which was established in response to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendation to close NAS Oceana in 2005. The innovative program moves nonconforming businesses out of APZ-1 and recruits and retains businesses that meet zoning and conformity specifications into the area. It is the only program of its kind in the country, and YesOceana now serves as a model for other localities facing problems with encroachment around air installations.

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Fortis Solutions Group was founded in 1979 as Labels Unlimited. The company quickly grew to more than 100 employees primarily serving the food and beverage industries across the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean from its manufacturing location in Virginia Beach. Under new ownership since 2010, the company acquired A&M Label in 2014 and continued its growth with the acquisition of three additional companies in 2015. The Company was rebranded as Fortis Solutions Group in early 2015.

Today, Fortis employs more than 265 people, operates multiple manufacturing facilities, has distribution capabilities across the country and is represented by an experienced sales team that services customers around the world. The company has additional manufacturing and sales offices in Cincinnati, OH, Detroit, MI, Kansas City, MO and Memphis, TN. For more information, visit www.fortissolutionsgroup.com or watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nruMvC9XuC4>.

The mission of the Virginia Beach Department of Economic Development is to attract and retain national and international businesses to stimulate capital investment and create jobs. Virginia Beach is the most populous city in Virginia with a population of 450,000, and it is the 37th largest in the United States. It is recognized as one of the Best Run Cities in America by 24/7 Wall St. The Department of Economic Development received re-accreditation through the International Economic Development Council in 2012 and is one of only 29 economic development organizations in the world to have this recognition. It is listed among the Top Five Overall Mid-sized American Cities of the Future, Top 10 for Economic Potential and Top Five for Infrastructure by fDi magazine. CNNMoney.com ranked Virginia Beach as the Easiest Place to Start a Business and the 2nd Most Business-Friendly City in the country. For more information, visit www.yesvirginiabeach.com.

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