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## Empire Foods to build fruit, vegetable facility

FoodBusinessNews.net, September 17, 2010

by Eric Schroeder

RALEIGH, N.C. — Empire Foods Inc., a producer of shelf stable fruits and vegetables, has received funding from the One North Carolina Fund to build a 35,000-square-foot production facility that will make fruits and vegetable products for the military and restaurant markets.

The company, using technology licensed from North Carolina State University, will invest \$2.5 million in the facility and create 200 jobs over the next five years. The products to be made at the facility are not expected to require refrigeration, but they will maintain the flavor, color and nutrients of fresh food.

“We are pleased that we are able to keep this technology in North Carolina where it was created, in cooperation with North Carolina State University,” said Greg Hatem, chairman of Empire Foods. “Locating this project in North Carolina, we can look forward to continued collaboration with the university’s Food Science Department.”

The One North Carolina Fund has awarded Empire Foods a \$400,000 grant for the project.

The One North Carolina Fund (formerly the Governor’s Industrial Recruitment Competitiveness Fund) seeks to recruit and expand jobs in high value-added, knowledge-driven industries. It provides financial assistance to businesses or industries seeking to expand in North Carolina and deemed vital to a healthy economy in the state.

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