

CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Around the Region

Cooper Kenworth to move local operation to Cabarrus

Charlotte Business Journal - March 17, 2006 by [Ken Elkins](#)

A big-truck dealership will spend \$3.5 million to move to Cabarrus County from Charlotte, with the new location slated to open in June.

[Cooper Kenworth Inc.](#) plans to add about 15 employees, boosting its work force to 50 as it relocates to the former Cardinal Freight facility on N.C. Highway 73 at Interstate 85, shifting from a leased site at 8621 Statesville Ave.

Meanwhile, the company has 6 acres under contract in south Charlotte for a second area dealership, says Russell Laing, vice president. He declines to disclose the location.

That facility, slated to open in next year's first quarter, will include a 30,000-square-foot showroom and have 20 employees, he says.

At the former Cardinal Freight site, Cooper Kenworth will demolish part of the 25,000-square-foot terminal building and expand it to as large as 45,000 square feet, Laing says.

Lester Osborn of Piedmont Properties/CORFAC International represented both sides in Cooper Kenworth's deal for the Cabarrus site. The seller was BLW Inc., an investor from Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Durham-based Cooper Kenworth has eight dealerships in North Carolina, as well as truck leasing operations in Tarboro; Bishopville, S.C.; and Memphis, Tenn.

Shelby plant gets \$20M upgrade

[PPG Industries Inc.](#), one of Shelby's largest employers, will spend \$20 million to rebuild one of its local plant's furnaces to make the operation more cost-competitive.

With the upgrade, the 900-employee fiberglass-production plant on Washburn Switch Road will make material used in wind-energy turbine blades, pipes, roofing shingles and auto parts.

"Our investment in Shelby demonstrates PPG's commitment to our U.S. manufacturing operations and the global fiberglass industry," says Victoria Holt, senior vice president of the Pittsburgh-based company.

In January, the plant's future was cast into doubt when Charles Bunch, PPG chief executive, told Time magazine the company could close its Shelby and Lexington facilities.

Local PPG officials say the pending \$20 million investment ensures the Shelby plant will remain in operation.

PPG also has a 100-employee fiberglass plant on Lancaster Highway in Chester.

Edifice building speedway addition

Lowe's Motor Speedway has hired [Edifice Inc.](#) to build an 8,700-square-foot office addition at the Speedway Club and Smith Tower.

The addition, perched 110 feet above the track, will help reduce a space crunch for speedway employees.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.

Cost of the construction, scheduled for completion in November, has not been disclosed. AI Design Group is project architect.

kelkins@bizjournals.com | (704) 973-1114

[Send us your comments](#)

[More Latest News →](#)

» [Get the latest business news on the go!](#) Brought to you by [Cingular](#)
