



## **NEWS RELEASE | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

### **Virginia receives Gold Shovel Award by Area Development Magazine, Microporous recognized as top project**

Area Development Magazine honored Virginia with a Gold Shovel Award in the 8-12 million population category as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shovel Awards. Microporous was recognized as one of the top contributing projects in 2024. The awards recognize states for their achievements in attracting high-value investment projects that will create a significant number of new jobs in their communities.

Additionally, Microporous was recognized as an Area Development “Project of the Year.”

In November of 2024, Microporous, a lithium-ion battery separator manufacturer, announced plans to invest \$1.35 billion to establish a facility in the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill. The investment will create 2,015 jobs.

“We are proud to see Microporous recognized as a Project of the Year and honored as a major contributor to Virginia receiving the prestigious Gold Shovel Award,” said Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism Director, Corrie Bobe. “Their significant investment in the Southern Virginia Megasite marks a pivotal moment for Danville and the entire region, showcasing the tremendous potential of our advanced materials industry. This success reflects the forward-thinking leadership and deliberate, strategic investments made by local and regional partners in Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Southern Virginia, who have worked collaboratively to position our region as a prime destination for transformative opportunities of this scale.”

Linda Green, Southern Virginia Regional Alliance Executive Director, stated, “We extend our sincere thanks to Area Development for this recognition and to Microporous and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for bringing this project to the Southern Virginia Megasite. We’re proud to welcome Microporous as the anchor tenant of the Danville-Pittsylvania County site. As a lead supplier for battery production, their expansion into lithium-ion separators represents a major market opportunity. Their early commitment to the region—through the

creation of a Community Benefits Council and their goal to be an employer of choice—sets a strong foundation for lasting success.”

“Pittsylvania County congratulates the Commonwealth of Virginia for earning the Gold Shovel Award from Area Development Magazine,” said Matt Rowe, Pittsylvania County Economic Development Director. “This accolade and recognition further validate Virginia’s ranking as being America’s #1 state for business. I’m proud that Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville could play a leading role in the state obtaining this designation. I thank all of the area’s leaders, both past and present, for laying the foundation for today’s realized economic development success. I’m confident that this positive momentum will continue for not only Danville and Pittsylvania County, but also the Commonwealth, into 2025 and beyond.”

Founded in 1965, Area Development is a leading executive magazine, published quarterly, covering corporate site selection and relocation. Their editorial coverage and events provide valuable information that affects successful corporate location decisions.

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#### **About the Office of Economic Development & Tourism**

The Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism recruits and retains businesses for the Danville area. The office provides information on available sites and buildings, incentives and other financial resources and offers a website designed for the business community: [www.discoverdanville.com](http://www.discoverdanville.com).