



NEWS RELEASE
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Evans Distribution Systems to open new Warehouse & Distribution Facility in Suffolk

SUFFOLK, Va. April 21, 2004 – Evans Distribution Systems announced today that they will lease 90,000 square feet of warehouse space at the Hampton Roads Logistics Facility, 101 Lummis Road, for handling and distribution of automotive parts. This project will bring approximately \$1.5 million in new capital investment to Suffolk and create 25 new jobs within the first twelve months of operations. The warehouse will be fully functional for shipments by May 1, 2004.

Based in Detroit, Mich., Evans Distribution Systems is a full-service third party logistics provider of warehousing, transportation and value-added solutions. Their customer-focused outlook has resulted in many successful, long-term relationships over their 75-year history, including Ford Motor Co., DaimlerChrysler, Diageo, Anheuser Busch and many more. Evans currently operates over 1,000,000 square feet of space in Michigan and a 230,000 square-foot dedicated facility in Boston, Mass.

Evans' heritage and expertise in the handling and distribution of automotive parts will be the main focus of the Suffolk facility. In addition, they have experience with general merchandise, consumer goods and non-hazardous chemicals. Evans will offer customers in the Hampton Roads area services such as pick and pack, pool distribution, quality inspection and sortation, just in time distribution, and complete local and long-haul transportation services including drayage.

Named one of the top 100 third party logistic providers of 2003 by *Inbound Logistics*, Evans firmly believes in proving to customers that "*It's Easier with Evans.*" Chairman John W. Evans related, "Our success is based on our ability to listen to our customers and develop innovative solutions. This is what brought us to Suffolk and what will be our foundation for growth and success in the area."

According to Mayor Dana Dickens "we are extremely pleased to welcome Evans Distribution Systems to our city. Suffolk provides an excellent strategic location for distribution services with close proximity to the Port of Virginia as well as to major regional manufacturers such as Ford Motor Company."

"I am delighted that Evans Distribution Systems has chosen to locate in Hampton Roads, stated Don Jellig, Chairman of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance." According to Jellig, "Evans is part of a growing logistics community in our region, and the City of Suffolk is a major player in the logistics arena. We are pleased that our efforts to target specific industry sectors are being successful."

"Evans Distribution Systems' investment in Suffolk is an example of the emerging opportunities for logistics companies to capitalize upon the Port of Virginia's strong growth, mid-Atlantic location, and portfolio of liner shipping services serving just about every region of the globe. We are pleased that they have elected to take a position in the marketplace offering warehousing

and logistics services to a critical segment of our business, the automotive industry," stated Thomas Capozzi, Senior Managing Director of Marketing for the Virginia Port Authority.

The Hampton Roads Logistics Facility is affiliated with Commonwealth Storage Corporation, which is a leading developer of warehouse and distributions buildings for short-term and long-term lease.

For employment opportunities at the new Suffolk location contact the Virginia Employment Commission at (757) 925-2376 or visit www.evansdist.com/jobs.htm

The City of Suffolk Economic Development Department, the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and the Virginia Port Authority were instrumental in assisting the company with the selection of this location.

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