

# WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Virginia Beach Economic Development Department's monthly newsletter for April 2025. Below, you will find a recap of the latest announced projects, HIVE updates, team happenings and business engagements, keeping you informed of all developments in the Department.

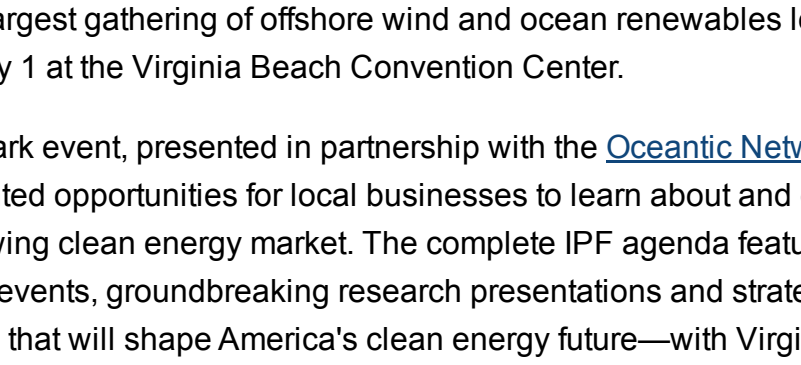
To see the Department's activities in real time, follow our [LinkedIn Page](#).

ON THE ROAD

BUSINESS RESOURCES

BUSINESS NEWS

## BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:



### Premier Offshore Wind Summit Coming to Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach is proudly hosting the [International Partnering Forum \(IPF\) 2025](#), America's largest gathering of offshore wind and ocean renewables leaders, from April 28-May 1 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

This landmark event, presented in partnership with the [Oceanic Network](#), offers unprecedented opportunities for local businesses to learn about and enter the rapidly growing clean energy market. The complete IPF agenda features exclusive networking events, groundbreaking research presentations and strategic discussions that will shape America's clean energy future—with Virginia Beach at its center.

The agenda includes two can't-miss events for local businesses:

#### Central Atlantic Supplier Fair

April 28, 1–4:30 p.m.

Connect directly with project developers to secure contracts in offshore renewable energy. Get insider industry updates and clear pathways to position your business in this growth market. This event will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Virginia Beach.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

#### Offshore Wind Workforce Summit

May 1, 9–11:30 a.m.

Join industry leaders, government officials and training experts tackling the workforce challenges critical to offshore wind. Discover upcoming training programs and research initiatives designed to build the skilled talent pipeline this industry demands. The summit will take place at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

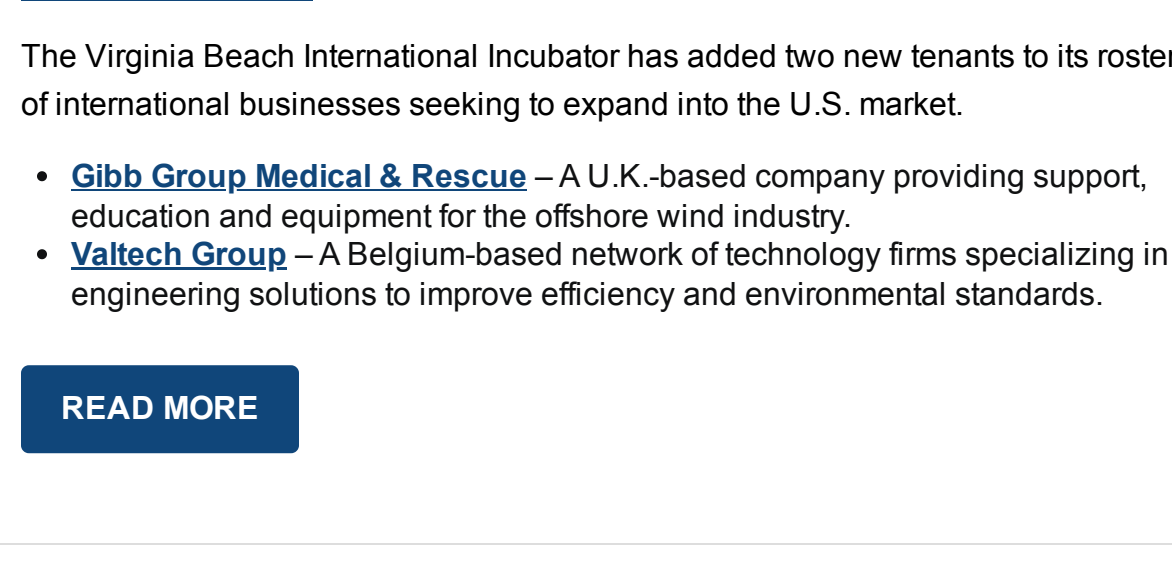


### Virginia Beach Development Authority Announces 18th Annual Golf Tournament

The Virginia Beach Development Authority (VBDA) will host its 18th Annual Golf Tournament on May 9 at Virginia Beach National Golf Club in celebration of Economic Development Week. The event honors individuals and businesses that contribute to the city's economic success and quality of life. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Virginia Beach Police Foundation.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Deadline to register is extended to April 18.

[SEE EVENT & SPONSORSHIP DETAILS](#)



### Virginia Beach International Incubator Welcomes New Tenants

The Virginia Beach International Incubator has added two new tenants to its roster of international businesses seeking to expand into the U.S. market.

- **Gibb Group Medical & Rescue** – A U.K.-based company providing support, education and equipment for the offshore wind industry.
- **Valtech Group** – A Belgium-based network of technology firms specializing in engineering solutions to improve efficiency and environmental standards.

[READ MORE](#)



### VIDARR Inc. to Open Manufacturing Facility in Virginia Beach

**VIDARR Inc.**, will invest \$2.69 million to open a 16,410-square-foot facility in Virginia Beach, creating 40 jobs.

Specializing in night vision, thermal optics, and autonomous systems, the defense manufacturer's new facility will boost production and collaboration with local businesses. Governor Glenn Youngkin highlighted the investment's significance for Virginia's defense sector. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership is supporting job creation through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

[READ MORE](#)

### Virginia Beach Awards Grant to Atlantic Diving Supply for Expansion

The Virginia Beach Development Authority awarded [Atlantic Diving Supply \(ADS\)](#) a \$150,000 grant on Feb. 11 to support a 40,600-square-foot expansion.

ADS has been recognized as one of Inc. 500's Fastest-Growing Private Companies and a Top Workplace in Distribution for 2024. As a top global contractor, securing \$2 billion in government contracts, the expansion will enhance operations and logistics to meet rising demand.



### Old Dominion University Hosts Third Annual Maritime & Offshore Wind Conference

Old Dominion University welcomed maritime professionals to the [Third Annual Maritime and Offshore Wind Conference](#) at Charley Arena on March 25. The event featured discussions on workforce development, federal policy and industry innovations.

A standout moment came as high school students from TOC's Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach claimed first place in the Second Annual Digital Ship Challenge.

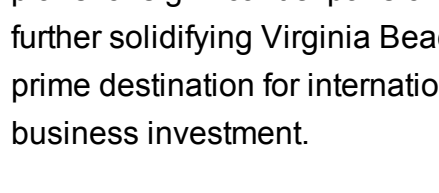
The event was made possible through partnerships with Dominion Energy, the Virginia Maritime Association, Oceanic Network, Centura College, the Hampton Roads Workforce Council and Women of Offshore Wind.

### VBED Team Joins Navy Congressional Luncheon

The Virginia Beach Economic Development team attended the Congressional Roundtable Luncheon on March 28, connecting with industry partners and local businesses, including Regulus Global and Vectrona Systems.

Hosted in collaboration with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and the Hampton Roads Alliance, the event brought together key stakeholders to discuss regional economic opportunities.

All four members of the Hampton Roads congressional delegation — Reps. Rob Wittman, R-Va., Jen Kiggans, R-Va., Bobby Scott, D-Va., and Jennifer McClellan, D-Va. — attended the event.



### Virginia Beach Economic Development Attends 2025 State of the City Address

The Virginia Beach Economic Development (VBED) team attended the [2025 State of the City Address](#) on March 12, where Mayor Bobby Dyer outlined the city's economic progress and future initiatives. Key topics included the growth of the offshore wind industry and investments in technology infrastructure, both of which are positioning Virginia Beach as a leader in innovation.

With offshore wind development accelerating, the city is attracting new businesses and creating jobs in the renewable energy sector. Additionally, investments in broadband expansion and tech infrastructure are strengthening Virginia Beach's position as a hub for advanced technology industries.

## ON THE ROAD:

### VBED Joins in Hampton Roads Alliance Trade Mission to Canada

The Hampton Roads Alliance, accompanied by Virginia Beach Economic Development and representatives from Chesapeake, conducted a four-day trade mission to Toronto in March. The purpose of the mission was to promote expansion opportunities within the U.S. The delegation engaged with companies spanning packaging, fintech, aerospace, logistics and manufacturing sectors. They highlighted Hampton Roads as an attractive location for growth and investment. The mission fostered stronger regional cooperation and underscored the area's appeal to international businesses.

### SelectUSA Roadshow Highlights Virginia Beach Opportunities in Europe

The Virginia Beach Economic Development team participated in a SelectUSA Roadshow, hosted by SelectUSA and the U.S. Commercial Services that made connections with Dutch, Belgian and French companies interested in expanding to the U.S. The companies represented a variety of industries, including defense, technology, advanced manufacturing and clean energy. While in France, Virginia Beach showcased the city's business opportunities and support services.

This roadshow precedes the SelectUSA Summit in Maryland this May, where the VBED team, along with other regional partners, will promote Virginia Beach as a prime location for investment and expansion.

### Virginia Beach Economic Development Engages U.K. Businesses in Key Sectors

The Virginia Beach Economic Development team recently conducted a marketing mission in the United Kingdom, engaging with business prospects in the defense, unmanned systems and clean energy industries.

During the trip, the team collaborated with trade partners in Scotland and attended the [Scottish Renewables Offshore Wind Conference](#), reinforcing the city's commitment to the growing offshore wind sector. They also visited [Sinus Analysis](#), a U.K.-based firm that established an office in the Virginia Beach International Incubator last fall, with plans for significant expansion, further solidifying Virginia Beach as a prime destination for international business investment.

### VEDP International Team Visits Virginia Beach to Explore Economic Opportunities

The Virginia Beach Economic Development team recently hosted a delegation from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) International offices, including representatives from Germany, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.

The visit aimed to showcase Virginia Beach's key business assets and highlight the city's strengths as a hub for international investment. The group toured local facilities, including Busch Manufacturing, to get a firsthand look at the region's advanced manufacturing capabilities and business environment.

The collaboration with VEDP will continue to strengthen the city's position as a prime location for global companies seeking to expand in the U.S. market.

### VEDP Announces Fall Trade Missions to Global Markets

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) is offering fall trade missions to Latin America, Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia, providing businesses with opportunities to expand into these growing international markets.

Each mission requires a \$2,500 participation fee plus travel expenses. Registration deadlines vary:

- **Mexico:** Sept. 22-26 (Register by July 25)
- **Colombia:** Oct. 20-24 (Register by Aug. 22)
- **Romania & Poland:** Oct. 27-31 (Register by Aug. 29)
- **Australia:** Nov. 10-14 (Register by Sept. 12)
- **Malaysia & Philippines:** Nov. 12-19 (Register by Sept. 12)

[VISIT VEDP FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

### AUKUS Workshop: Unlocking Opportunities in the Australian Defense Market

Are you ready to capitalize on the transformative potential of the AUKUS alliance? Join the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and ADROTA April 11-16 for an exclusive workshop designed to equip Virginia businesses with the insights, tools, and strategies needed to succeed in the evolving trade and defense landscape.

This interactive workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of AUKUS, highlight emerging opportunities, and offer actionable guidance on entering the Australian defense market.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### Façade Improvement Grants Return for Fifth Year

The Virginia Beach Development Authority (VBDA) is bringing back its Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) program for a fifth year, supporting small businesses in enhancing their properties. The program offers matching grants up to \$10,000 for exterior upgrades such as windows, doors, signage, lighting and more.

**Eligibility:** Open to Virginia Beach-licensed small businesses and nonprofit entities with fewer than 50 employees. Properties must be zoned for commercial or industrial use and in good standing with city taxes and fees.

Grants are awarded competitively on a first-come, first-served basis. Improvements must be completed within six months of receiving funds

[APPLY NOW](#)

### Hampton Roads Regional Job Fair and Virginia Beach Application Fest

The Hampton Roads Workforce Council will host the Hampton Roads Regional Job Fair on the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront, 100 E. Constance Road.

As a lead-up to the event, HRWC is launching an Application Fest Tour across the region's 15 localities. The Application Fest tour is an innovative hiring event that will connect top talent with 50-60 employers. The tour will stop in Virginia Beach on May 29 at [the Hive](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Virginia Beach Celebrates Economic Development Week

The Virginia Beach Economic Development (VBED) office will join communities nationwide in celebrating [Economic Development Week \(EDW\)](#), May 12-16. Economic Development Week highlights the vital role economic development plays in fostering job growth, business expansion and community prosperity.

Throughout the week VBED will celebrate local successes, industry leaders and economic development initiatives that drive the city's success. The 18th Annual VBDA Golf Tournament on May 9 will kick off the celebration.

The HIVE is our business resource center designed to support an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Virginia Beach. The HIVE took part in several events the past two months focused on supporting small businesses and workforce, including Women in Construction Week, military transition seminar, diversity and equity summit, business pitch event and business accelerator graduation.

For more information about events, including the ongoing activities and resources of the HIVE, sign up for their newsletter below.

SIGN UP NOW

Not a subscriber? Sign up [here](#) to join the mailing list for the Economic Development newsletter.

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