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HEALTH CARE

Medical marijuana firm plans big expansion in Northern Virginia



Jushi is expanding its Manassas facility, which comprises its cultivation and manufacturing operations as well as its dispensary, Beyond Hello.

NICOLAS J. CAPRA VIA JUSHI HOLDINGS INC.

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By Sara Gilgore
Staff Reporter, Washington Business Journal
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A publicly traded medical marijuana company with operations across seven states is expanding its Greater

Washington footprint, with plans underway to roughly double its local investment and headcount.

Boca Raton, Florida-based Jushi Holdings Inc., a multistate operator with a growing presence in Northern Virginia since late 2020, is taking steps to significantly increase its cultivation, processing and manufacturing facility in Manassas and open two more retail dispensaries in Northern Virginia by the end of the first quarter.

The company is initiating the expansion at a key moment for Virginia's cannabis industry, as the state recently made it easier for consumers to obtain medical marijuana cards and legalized marijuana for recreational use. Both dynamics present a growth opportunity for Jushi, said Trent Woloveck, the company's chief commercial officer.

Establishing operations within the medical program early "was super advantageous," he said, "and very much a good use of capital in a space where there's limited capital available for people who operate in the cannabis industry."



Trent Woloveck is chief commercial officer for Jushi.

JUSHI HOLDINGS INC.

The expansion

Jushi's biggest local investment is expanding its Manassas cultivation and manufacturing facility.

The company bought a 96,000-square-foot facility at 8100 Albertstone Circle and another nine acres behind it for \$22

million in spring 2021, and it's now preparing to add 65,000 square feet to the property under its pharmaceutical processor subsidiary, Dalitso LLC. It's already invested about \$75 million in the first phase of the buildout – and, all in, expects its total investment to reach \$120 million to \$150 million, Woloveck said. Jushi's team is now in the process of earning the required approvals, with a target of delivering the new space in the next nine to 18 months.

The operator is also adding dispensaries under retail brand Beyond Hello, which opened its first store in Manassas in December 2020 and has since set up three more shops in Sterling, Fairfax and Alexandria. The company expects its fifth store, at 2701 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington, to open within the next four to six weeks, with a sixth and final site at an undisclosed location in Woodbridge set to go live by the end of March, Woloveck said. Beyond Hello's Virginia dispensaries range between 3,500 and 8,500 square feet.

The expansion also means Jushi will create “hundreds of jobs,” Woloveck said. It has 70 to 100 employees at its Manassas facility and could double or even triple that number once the addition is up and running. Each of Beyond Hello's new retail stores, meanwhile, will hire 20 to 30 new workers.

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