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From the Triangle Business Journal:

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Cary engineering firm CEO discusses its \$36M sale

Sep 11, 2018, 7:24am EDT

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The 21 employee-owners of Cary-based Calyx Engineers + Consultants have sold the company in a cash and stock deal valued at \$36 million, according to the company and its buyer, engineering and consulting firm NV5 Global.

Not much will change on the ground for Calyx employees, says former [CEO Jill Heath](#). Staffing will remain the same, except that Heath's title will change to division president.

The 25-year-old company, formerly known as [Mulkey Engineers and Consultants](#), has 225 employees and has worked on a number of high-profile projects throughout the Triangle, from Raleigh's new Union Station to the Fayetteville Street Mall. The company has regularly topped the list as one of the Triangle's [largest women-owned businesses](#).

For NV5, the acquisition opens up new geographies. "This gives NV5 an opportunity to get into this really great market," Heath says. That was also the case made by NV5 CEO Dickerson Wright in a statement announcing the deal.



JIM COLMAN

Former Calyx CEO Jill Heath will stay on as division president now that the firm has sold to a global engineering company.

"Calyx will position NV5 as a leading firm offering transportation and infrastructure services in the Southeast, one of the most rapidly growing regions of the U.S.," Wright stated. "Calyx's longstanding relationships with state departments of transportation will complement NV5's current infrastructure services in the Northeast, Florida and the West."

Calyx has offices in Charlotte, Atlanta, Columbus, Georgia, and Rock Hill, South Carolina, and has been eyeing more growth in South Carolina. "We think it's going to give a lot of opportunity to our engineers to be able to work on larger projects," Heath says.

Calyx is a full-service engineering firm that works on a variety of projects, from transportation to land development. The transition under NV5 will be "slow and methodic," Heath says. She has been with the company since its founding and was promoted to president in 2006, then CEO in 2008.

NV5's stock has been on the rise since February, when the share price was just over \$43. Sept. 10, the stock was more than \$90 per share.

The Calyx sale is one of the several recent changes in the local engineering landscape. Earlier this month, McAdams announced it had acquired a 44-person firm in Dallas and is eyeing more growth in the future.

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