

STAR-GAZETTE

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A view inside the Quantera Lab with Terry Bates, left, and Matt Scimeca, right. Quantera is partnering with companies in Elmira, Binghamton and Jamestown to support its new Curio HS product. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY QUANTERA

Ithaca startup's new tech could bring jobs

Chris Potter
Elmira Star-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

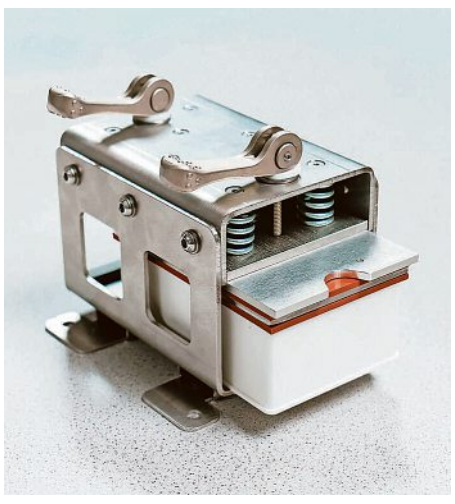
A new Ithaca company with partners in Elmira, Binghamton and Jamestown is making waves in the Finger Lakes and beyond.

Quantera Analytical recently introduced the Curio HS, an innovative product that promises to dramatically accelerate the pace of trace level testing in the wine, food and fragrance industries.

The core technology was developed at Cornell University and licensed exclusively to Quantera, which is partnering with manufacturers across the Southern Tier and New York state as it commercializes the product.

The company is also planning to take a big step forward in 2027 with the establishment of its own production facility in the Cortland or Groton area, one that will create additional manufacturing jobs.

Here's what to know about the effort.



Quantera Analytical has introduced the Curio HS, a planar, parallel, cartridge-based headspace extraction platform that enables significant workflow acceleration for trace level testing.

What is Quantera's Curio product?

Quantera founder and CEO Terry Bates was working on his PhD in 2020 when California vineyards were decimated by wildfires. Grapes exposed to wildfire smoke often require testing for crop insurance claims or commercial contracts, but growers struggled to find enough labs to meet the sudden demand.

"Everybody was so overloaded due to all the bottlenecks in the process. No one could do the testing," Bates recalled. "I thought this is a horrible way to be doing this. A slight increase in

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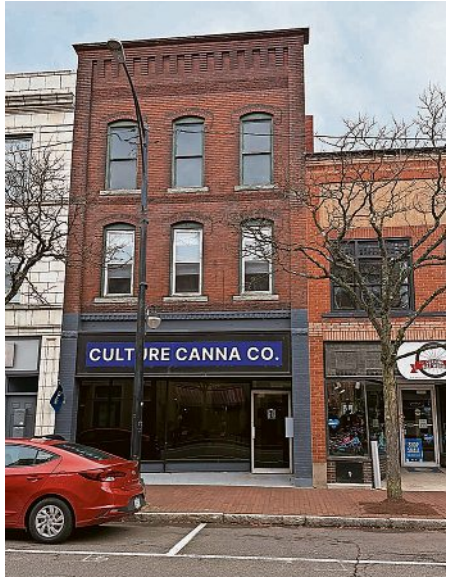

A look at Culture Canna Co., of Market Street.
JEFF SMITH/CORNING LEADER

Cannabis stores may soon be open on Sundays

Jeff Smith
Corning Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Should Corning's cannabis businesses be allowed to operate on Sundays?

The Corning City Council plans to vote Dec. 7 on whether to allow Union Chill Cannabis Dispensary, on Pulteney Street, and Culture Canna Co., on Market Street, to be open a full seven days a week.

The council voted 4-3 to opt-in on New York state's new cannabis laws in December 2021, allowing cannabis dispensaries in the city to be open Monday through Saturday.

Corning City Mayor Pam Walker said the City Council will hold a public hearing on allowing the two legal cannabis dispensaries in the city to now be open on Sunday and then vote on the extension.

"The cannabis dispensaries being open has turned into not a big deal," Walker said. "I think when they first opened up some feared they would attract a lot of traffic and maybe some disruptive behavior. That has not happened, they have been quiet and professional. There is no reason for them not to have the same conditions as every other business."

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Workers can add an extra $1,000 a year to their 401(k)s

IRS has elevated contribution limits for this year

Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DETROIT – Many savers who love to stuff their retirement plans to the max will be allowed to set aside an extra $1,000 a year in their 401(k) plans in 2027 based on new contribution limits announced by the Internal Revenue Service.

And some savers who are 50 and older can boost their savings even more than that if they are able.

The baseline amount that individuals can contribute to their 401(k) plans has increased to $25,500 in 2027, up from $24,500 for 2026.

The new limit also applies to those who participate in 403(b) plans, governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan.

Many Gen X savers, depending on their age, can contribute more than $25,500 next year.

And a limited group of others can save even more than those 50 and older.

According to the IRS announcement on Nov. 12, the catch-up contribution limit that generally applies for employees aged 50 and over who participate in these plans at work will increase to $8,500 in 2027, up from $8,000 for 2026.

So, theoretically, we're talking about

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For 2027, this higher catch-up contribution limit is $11,750 instead of the $8,500, which means that someone in their early 60s could contribute, again theoretically, up to $37,250.

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