

Protein Sciences leases building to manufacture vaccines

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MERIDEN — Protein Sciences Corp. has leased a long-vacant property at 875 Research Parkway with plans to manufacture its FluBlok influenza shot and other vaccines, a move that could eventually lead to the company adding 150 jobs.

President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Adams said the company has a lease option with the building owners to install its bioreactors, used for fermentation, and other equip-

ment needed to expand its research and development. Its quality-control laboratory is also housed in the new building.

Protein Sciences develops protein-based cell technology used in vaccines. Its signature product, FluBlok, extracts protein in insect cells to make a vaccine that is cleaner and faster to make than current chicken-egg-based technology. Progress has been slowed because Protein Sciences lacks a manufacturing plant.

If all goes according to plan, the expansion would generate

150 jobs for biologists, procurement specialists and other high-end positions.

"The facility and space around this building is perfect for us," Adams said. "We've been coordinating with the town and state because we want to stay in town."

Adams met recently with city officials to discuss the company's plans.

"This is an excellent fit for this previously vacant property and it is in close proximity to Protein Sciences' main

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Protein Sciences Corp.

Product line: Research, development and manufacturing of protein-based technology used to develop vaccines. Signature product, FluBlok, under review by the federal Food and Drug Administration
Address: Headquarters at 1000 Research Parkway, with a lease option at 875 Research Parkway for manufacturing space.

Number of employees: 50

Annual sales: \$2.9 million in 2007 (Hoover's).

Left: Cells growing in suspension at Protein Sciences laboratory. Protein from cells is used as vaccine.

□ Protein Sciences

office," said Peggy Brennan, director of the city's Economic Development office. "This expansion shows that the city is an excellent location for bioscience companies. It also shows Protein Sciences' continued commitment to Meriden."

Protein Sciences is based at 1000 Research Parkway. The new manufacturing site is across the street.

FluBlok, already licensed in Japan, is under final review by the federal Food and Drug Administration for possible licensure in the United States.

Protein Sciences has been looking for a manufacturing solution for several years. Its pandemic version of the vaccine has achieved orphan status in Japan, which provides for market exclusivity, reduction in regulatory fees, and additional regulatory support for research and development initiatives.

Protein Sciences has partnerships with Swedish life-science company Diamyd Medical to make and develop its new diabetes vaccine, now in third-phase trials in the U.S. Diamyd Medical has invested more than \$4 million in Protein Sciences and has become the company's largest shareholder.

"We really want to keep the U.S. and European markets for ourselves," Adams said.

Protein Sciences also staved off two potential acquisitions, but its deal with Emergent BioSolutions Inc. of Rockville, Md., turned nasty when Protein Science stockholders rejected the offer. Emergent has

since dropped a lawsuit against Protein Sciences, but Protein Sciences must repay a bridge loan of nearly \$10 million.

Adams is in talks with the state Department of Community and Economic Development for state incentive money to help finance the manufacturing expansion. It also has an application with the federal Department of Health and Human Services for about \$150 million. Adams is hoping the new federal stimulus package will spur the agency to move faster on its application.

"It has to move more quickly, because they want to get the money out there," Adams said.

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