

AlphaVax Announces New Manufacturing Initiative

Research Triangle Park, N.C. AlphaVax announced today that it has executed a lease with CMD Properties, Inc. for a manufacturing facility at 2810 Meridian Parkway in Durham, North Carolina that is owned and managed by CMD.

The lease is a part of a new AlphaVax plan to expand its manufacturing capacity for clinical trial supplies. Last year, AlphaVax initiated the first clinical trial for its novel vaccine technology, and has multiple additional projects that will require manufacturing support to enter clinical development in the next few years.

"AlphaVax has emphasized manufacturing know-how and capability as keys to our ability to advance our technology," Peter Young, President & CEO, commented. "We have relied on outside manufacturing support up till now," said Young, "but project demand from our partners has reached a point where we need to add capacity. That creates a strategic opportunity to integrate clinical stage manufacturing into the Company's in-house capabilities. This will complement our external manufacturing efforts and add considerable value to our partnerships by reducing the time and risk to take products into clinical trials."

"Production of new biologically-based products is a demanding watershed in the biotech industry," notes Charles Hamner, President of NC Bio, the North Carolina biotech industry association. "Manufacture of these sophisticated types of materials can be a complex and expensive process, and it can be difficult to make a biological product meet the stringent regulatory requirements imposed on products before they can be used for human clinical trials. As a result, manufacturing is often the rate-limiting step for young companies trying to advance biotechnologies into clinical development," Dr. Hamner explained. "This is why North Carolina has been considering new initiatives to support bio-manufacturing facilities financing as part of the state's strategy for cultivating the biotech industry."

AlphaVax plans to make substantial improvements to the Meridian facility that will create two separate production suites and an additional filling suite. It hopes to operationalize the new facility by the 2nd quarter of next year. In parallel, the Company is expanding its development and manufacturing staff to support the project load for its technology, anticipating as many as an additional two dozen hires this year and a potential doubling of its organization over the next couple of years. Last year, the Company announced that it had received two new biodefense vaccine grants and a major additional HIV vaccine grant from the National Institutes for Health.