

Greenfield lands Elanco HQ

Lilly unit to move to new Browning life-sciences park in spring 2010

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Over the past five decades, Eli Lilly and Co.'s animal health division has cranked out dozens of antibiotics, feed additives and parasite killers for farmers and veterinarians, last year ringing up nearly \$1 billion in sales.

But the division, called Elanco, has seen its headquarters bounce from one location to another over the years, and has had challenges building a clear identity.

Now, Elanco is about to get its own new headquarters at one of the busiest intersections in Hancock County, a move the company hopes will give it a stronger brand and visibility.

Elanco said Tuesday it has chosen a site at I-70 and Ind. 9 for its headquarters, which will be home to more than 300 division employees.

"What we have not had was a place to call our own, with the Elanco brand," said Joan Todd, an Elanco spokeswoman. "It's very clear now that we do need to do that, and we are doing it."

The headquarters will be in a new business park that community leaders hope will attract other life-sciences companies to town.

The new headquarters will be owned, built and managed by Browning Investments, an Indianapolis real estate developer. The Elanco headquarters will be the first project in a new 52-acre life-sciences park that Browning is developing at the site.

Elanco's headquarters will include two two-story office buildings and a laboratory building. Construction will begin in March. Elanco plans to move to its new home by spring 2010.

The Elanco headquarters will encompass about 135,000 square feet on 20 acres within the Browning development. The park, when completed, could accommodate up to 400,000 square feet of business space, officials from the two companies said.

The site is about four miles northeast of Elanco's current headquarters, located on a sprawling, multiuse Lilly campus. Lilly said last month it would relocate its Elanco headquarters as part of a larger cost-cutting move to sell its Greenfield Laboratories to Covance, a New Jersey drug-services company.

Until the new Elanco headquarters is completed, Elanco plans to lease its existing space in Greenfield from Covance.

Lilly's site selection is a shot in the arm for Greenfield. Lilly previously had said it would relocate the headquarters somewhere in Hancock County, but did not say where. The company also looked at property in Mount Comfort, but decided that Greenfield offered more visibility for the growing division, as well as better proximity to restaurants and hotels for corporate visitors.

Neither Lilly nor Browning would discuss the project's cost. But Greenfield Mayor Brad DeReamer said Elanco's new headquarters would be a \$25 million construction project and could attract other development in the area. He said the city is spending about \$363,000 to relocate a high-pressure gas line running diagonally through the property, which is farmland owned by Rob Eagleston.

"We're thrilled we could keep Elanco here and hope other businesses will take notice of that site," he said.

Dennis Maloy, executive director of the Hancock Economic Development Council, said the site will be attractive to companies interested in a "shovel-ready" site, meaning it has been platted, has sewer and water lines in place and already has undergone environmental analysis.

Browning Investments said it is talking with several other companies about building on adjacent property, but has yet to sign another tenant. The company's other properties include a 950,000-square-foot warehouse in Plainfield for Amazon.com and numerous projects along the North Meridian corridor, including the former Thomson Consumer Electronics headquarters, Penn Mark Plaza and Fidelity Plaza.

Elanco, which employs more than 2,000 people worldwide, has offices in more than 30 countries. Lilly said the new Elanco headquarters will save it at least \$1 million a year in operating expenses.

Call Star reporter John Russell at (317) 444-6283.

About Elanco

Employs about 300 people at its headquarters, and more than 2,000 worldwide; offices in 30-plus countries.

Makes antibiotics, feed additives, parasite killers and pet medicines.

Sales last year were almost \$1 billion, up 14 percent.

Sources: Eli Lilly and Co., Browning Investments, city of Greenfield

About Elanco's new headquarters

Located in Greenfield at I-70 and Ind. 9.

Two office buildings and a laboratory building, with 135,000 square feet on 20 acres.

Will be the first project in a new 52-acre business park.

Cost will be about \$25 million.

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