

## **Amylin building \$400M facility in West Chester**

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Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. said late Wednesday that it is expanding its manufacturing facility already under construction in West Chester, creating a \$400 million project and about 500 jobs for Butler County.

The company will make a long-acting release formulation of exenatide, a compound in development for the management of Type 2 diabetes, at the facility, according to a news release from the Butler County Department of Economic Development. Amylin already manufactures a twice-daily formulation of the drug under the brand name Byetta.

"This is a very important high technology investment for us," said Greg Jolivette, president of the Butler County Board of Commissioners. "It validates Butler County as a site for biotechnology manufacturing and the quality of our work force."

Reports had been circulating since March that the San Diego-based drug maker was going to expand the project it already had under way. Last year Amylin purchased 150,000-square-foot building on Trade Port Drive in West Chester, and was turning the \$9 million structure on 26 acres into a manufacturing facility, a project that was expected to cost \$150 million.

In recent months, the company had purchased additional acreage next to its Trade Port Drive property, and its Amylin Ohio LLC subsidiary was awarded a \$1.5 million Targeted Industry Attraction Program (TIA) grant for a possible expansion at its West Chester site, from Ohio's Third Frontier program.

Amylin (NASDAQ: AMLN) said previously that the West Chester facility is strategically located near its technology partner Alkermes (NASDAQ: ALKS), a Cambridge, Mass.-based pharmaceutical company that has a facility in Wilmington. Eli Lilly and Co., (NYSE: LLY) based in Indianapolis, is also collaborating on the development on the long-acting exenatide formulation.