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Amylin adding 500 jobs

More invested in facility to make diabetes drug

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WEST CHESTER TWP. - Five hundred new jobs will be created through an expanded \$400 million investment in a facility to produce a new diabetes drug being developed by Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc., Gov. Ted Strickland confirmed Wednesday night. The jobs will pay an average of more than \$50,000 annually,

The project is an expansion of San Diego-based Amylin's 2005 decision to invest \$70 million and create up to 150 jobs to produce the new long-acting-release version of its Type 2 diabetes treatment Byetta, now in clinical trials.

The drug is expected to be ready for commercial release by the end of 2008.

The original investment was to prepare an existing 150,000-square-foot building on Trade Port Drive, west of Ohio 747 for initial production. The additional investment is to enlarge that building and install additional manufacturing and packaging equipment for a once-a-week injection Amylin is introducing with the help of Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly Co. and Alkermes Inc.

"Amylin is a significant partner in Ohio's growing bioscience industry and will undoubtedly serve as a blueprint for companies dedicated to developing innovative therapies," Strickland said in a statement.

Daniel M. Bradbury, Amylin's new president and CEO, said in a statement: "We believe Ohio has a favorable business environment and is an ideal location for investing in our company's future growth."

Strickland said Ohio beat out Arizona for the investment.

Ohio and local officials have committed more than \$117 million in benefits and financial assistance for the project, including more than \$30 million in local grants and abatements.

The state's incentive package includes \$11.1 million through the Job Creation Tax Credit program, \$6.5 million in state and local sales tax exemptions.

The package also includes more than \$17 million in state research development fund loans and credits, \$11.2 million through the Ohio Enterprise Bond fund and assorted other grants.

George Lang, West Chester Township trustees president, said the trustees have agreed to give the company a 15-year, 100 percent property tax abatement on the project with two conditions:

That Amylin make an annual contribution to the Lakota School District offsetting its tax loss.

That the township will create a joint economic development district to collect a yet-to-be determined earnings tax from Amylin's employees to offset the township's contribution to the project.

Lang, who said he's worked on the Amylin expansion for about a year, paid tribute to the efforts of Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, head of the Ohio Department of Development, in winning the project.

"I'm a Republican and he's a Democrat, but when he came in, things really started to happen," Lang said.

Last year, Alkermes - a Cambridge, Mass.-based company that specializes in drug-delivery technologies - won \$76 million in state incentives to expand its plant outside Wilmington in Clinton County, increasing employment for 275 to 500.