

# **Amylin buys \$4.5 million in new West Chester Twp. land, eyes area for major expansion**

**Top state officials in weekly contact with company executives, said state's lieutenant governor.**

Biopharmaceutical company Amylin purchased \$4.5 million in acreage next to its West Chester Twp. facility in February.

General Manager John Pratt said the company is considering building a packaging facility on its new 17 acres along Trade Port Drive, next to the facility already under construction on 27 acres purchased in December 2005. If the company chooses to expand here, officials involved with the deal say it would be a significant boost for the community.

"It's a major, major expansion," said Butler County Commissioner Michael Fox. "We're working with the state and county on an incentive package," Pratt said. West Chester Twp. Trustee George Lang confirmed that state and local leaders worked together to create an incentive package.

"An incentive was put together with the help of Michael Fox and (Lt. Gov.) Lee Fisher, using both local incentives at the West Chester Twp., Butler County and state levels." "I cannot emphasize enough the level of involvement and positive support we've received from the governor and lieutenant governor," said Fox.

Fisher said that both he and Strickland have been in weekly contact with Amylin executives over the past several months. "Governor Strickland and I have been working very closely with the CEO of Amylin - even before we took office," he said.

Pratt said the company's corporate office in San Diego, Calif., is completing a due-diligence review of the incentive offer.

"We haven't officially commented on whether we're coming or not," Pratt said, "but things are looking promising."

"This would be an outstanding project for our state and our community," said Fox.

"If approved," he said, "It would involve hundreds of millions in investment and hundreds of employees, all good paying jobs.

That's why we're all excited about the opportunity."

Both Amylin and government officials emphasized that a decision to expand in West Chester Twp. has not been finalized. Pratt said an official announcement will be made when the company selects a site, possibly in May.

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By [Matt Cunningham](#) Staff Writer Friday, March 23, 2007