

## **Beyond Research: New Facility Testing Ground for Cures**

In a move that will bring an estimated 30 new jobs to Northern Colorado and accelerate the delivery of life-saving vaccines and treatments to the marketplace, Colorado State University has awarded the contract for operation of its new manufacturing facility, part of the Research Innovation Center, to Pinnacle Biopharma, LLC.

"CSU's visionary concept to construct the pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in conjunction with the RIC will propel the development of life-saving pharmaceutical products here in Colorado," said Anthony Pilkington, Pinnacle's COO. "We are proud to be CSU's partner in this worthy endeavor and to create essential jobs in the Fort Collins area."

The 72,000-square-foot, \$53-million Research Innovation Center on CSU's Foothills Campus allows university and private researchers to work together in state-of-the-art bioscience laboratories to test, manufacture and gain approval for vaccines and treatments for some of the world's most deadly diseases.

Pinnacle, whose key managers have more than 140 years of combined relevant industry experience, will operate as a Contract Manufacturing Organization providing manufacturing and Chemistry Manufacturing and Controls (CMC) development services to commercial clients as well as new enterprises developing at the RIC and other Colorado research institutions.

Pinnacle's management expertise covers all aspects of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP); quality management, pharmaceutical development, regulatory affairs, business development and executive management.

CSU conducted a six-month nationwide search for a RIC manufacturing organization, according to Joe Guiles, chief operating officer of MicroRx, the non-profit business arm of CSU's infectious disease program.

"There were two high priority aspects the University was looking for in an operator for the facility; first was experience and expertise in pharmaceutical manufacturing, which clearly Pinnacle has," Guiles said. "The second was a desire to engage with CSU as a potential collaborative partner. From their first proposal it was clear that Pinnacle saw the relationship to be a symbiotic one in which they brought their business contacts and industry experience to the table while being able to utilize the resources of the university."

The lag between development of new drugs and getting them to market has grown in recent years. From 1996 to 1999, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved 157 new drugs, according to reporting by Newsweek magazine. During the same time period a decade later, the Agency approved a mere 74. CSU research focuses on treatment and cures for such deadly diseases as West Nile virus, drug-resistant tuberculosis, yellow fever, dengue fever, hantavirus, plague and tularemia. In addition it is one of the leading research facilities in the area of cancer diagnosis and treatment, hosting faculty who research both human and animal cancer.

At the building's ribbon-cutting May 12, CSU officials said bringing CSU researchers together with private companies could shave years off the development of treatments.

"Colorado State University's status as a pioneer in disease-related research is greatly enhanced by our ability to make scientific discoveries meaningful to people and animals who suffer from

diseases,” said Bill Farland, vice president for Research at CSU. “This building, with Pinnacle’s industry-experienced management at the helm, will provide a hub for the brightest minds working to prevent, treat and cure diseases to come together and develop solutions that can be quickly translated into the marketplace to save lives.”

The GMP facility is expected to be ready for occupation by Pinnacle in August 2010. Certain CMC development activities could start as early as September 2010. Aseptic manufacturing is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2011 after installation and validation of specialized pharmaceutical equipment.

#### About Pinnacle:

Pinnacle was established as a joint venture between two Colorado corporations: BioNimbus, Inc. based in Fort Collins and Beacon Pharma Partners, Inc. of Boulder. Pinnacle will capitalize on the extensive experience of its founders to establish and operate a contract manufacturing organization to meet the needs of biopharmaceutical companies desiring Good Manufacturing Practices manufacturing and Chemistry Manufacturing and Controls development. Initially, Pinnacle will provide its customers with formulation, analytical development, stability testing and process development services. In addition, Pinnacle will engage in GMP manufacturing of aseptic liquid and powder formulations for use in nonclinical and clinical studies. In the second phase, the Company will offer lyophilized products, for clinical and research use. The Company also intends to engage in the contract manufacture of small batch size commercial products.

#### About Colorado State University:

The Research Innovation Center is an addition to the existing Infectious Disease Research Center which also houses the 38,000-square-foot Rocky Mountain Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, which was completed in October 2007 and began research in the spring of 2008. That building was constructed with a \$30 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease. The University’s Foothills Campus also houses the only Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory outside of Atlanta. Colorado State University draws world-class faculty who research solutions for diseases and mentor many students who also are involved in biosciences research projects.

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