

# Burgeoning biotech firm lands in L'burg

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Ivy Tech Community College has the lab space and PDS Biotechnology Corporation has the knowledge, so the Lawrenceburg campus was chosen as the new base of operations for the burgeoning biotech company.

PDS Biotechnology received a \$2 million 21st Century Fund grant award administered by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and agreed to relocate to Indiana.

Ivy Tech's readily available lab space means PDS won't have to build its own, while it waits for Food and Drug Administration approval for the next step in de-

veloping Versamune-HPV, a vaccine-cure for human papillomavirus related cancers, and in treating-curing melanoma, said Frank Bedu-Addo, president and CEO of PDS.

PDS expects approval by late this year or early next

year, and it has successfully demonstrated Versamune's abilities in animal and human cell trials, he said.

Lawrenceburg is an ideal location, and Lawrenceburg, Ivy Tech and Dearborn County officials worked with PDS, said Bedu-Addo.

The proximity to Louisville, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, as well as Indiana University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Cincinnati also make Lawrenceburg attractive as a location for the company, he said.

*"We have a technology we can apply to cancer and infectious disease treatment."*

— FRANK BEDU-ADDO  
Pres. PDS Biotechnology

While there are only five employees currently, with most of PDS research contracted out through the National Institutes of Health, and University of North Carolina-Chapel

Hill and the National Cancer Institute, PDS expects to grow to about 100 employees in the next four to eight years, said Bedu-Addo.

"But as we get FDA approval and additional funding  
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then we will bring those activities in-house, and can develop additional drugs. We have a technology we can apply to cancer and infectious disease treatment," said Bedu-Addo.

Two key stages of growth are anticipated in 2011-2012, upon completion of human safety studies leading to successful licensing of the technology and information of corporate partnerships with larger pharmaceutical companies, and in 2016-2017 upon successful commercialization of the company's lead product Versamune-HPV, said Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg Chancellor Jim Helms.

Bedu-Addo is not sure if

the company will apply for another 21st Century grant, and is still in discussions with the state, he said, adding much of the company's money has come through NIH grants and private investors.

"This is the beginning of an era of the Ivy Tech facility becoming a medical research incubator and leading to many great opportunities for all concerned, as well as possible new degree programs to compliment PDS and the Biotech industry in the future," said Helms.

The City of Lawrenceburg, Ivy Tech Community College, Dearborn County Economic Development, and the State of Indiana are extremely pleased to have a major medical research company select the Lawrenceburg location for the PDS Biotechnology Com-

pany, he said.

Discussions were held over recent weeks directly with PDS officials Bedu-Addo and Gregory L. Conn, the PDS chief scientific officer, said Helms, who also is chairman of the Dearborn Economic Development Board.

Other local officials involved in the process and working to bring this together include Lawrenceburg Mayor Bill Cunningham, City Manager Tom Steidel, Dearborn Economic Development Director Mike Rozow, and Doug Moorman of Cincinnati USA Partnership; also support from Ivy Tech Community College President Tom Snyder and Susan Brooks, Ivy Tech statewide Legal Counsel and head of the college Workforce and Economic Development, said Helms.