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EDC of Kansas City announces creation of “Kansas City Biotechnology Center”

Center already has its first tenant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kansas City, MO. August 28, 2006 — The Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Mo. (EDC) today announced the creation of the “Kansas City Biotechnology Center.” The center is designed to house early stage, rapidly growing companies developing pharmaceuticals, medical devices and research and diagnostic equipment.

This small (3700 s.f.) facility, located at 4420 Madison Ave. just west of the Country Club Plaza, will contain both office space and fully equipped wet laboratories capable of carrying out the advanced research and development activities common for companies in this promising growth industry.

The Center’s first tenant, Proteon Therapeutics, Inc. announced that it will consolidate its regional operations at the Biotechnology Center. Proteon is an early-stage biotechnology company developing novel, first-in-class pharmaceuticals for patients with renal and vascular diseases. Proteon recently closed a Series A financing from four experienced life science venture capital firms located in Boston, Mass., Palo Alto, Calif., Durham, N.C. and Munich, Germany.

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt said, “We continue to support advancements in innovation and were able to work with local leaders in Kansas City to meet the needs of an exciting company committed to raising our stature as a leader in science.”

“This life science incubator will not only advance our technology-based industries but will also bring jobs to our state,” the Governor continued.

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The project was financed using a combination of private and public sources including Missouri Development Finance Board and Missouri Department of Economic Development tax credits, as well as contributions from the City of Kansas City, Bank Midwest, the Kansas City Industrial Development Authority and the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority. The public contributions and state tax credits will flow to the EDC Charitable Fund, a 501 (c)3 organization, which will lease the facility and subsequently sublease space to company tenants.

“Although this is a modest initial venture, Kansas City, Mo. and the EDC of Kansas City are committed to helping biotechnology entrepreneurs successfully navigate the difficult start-up phase,” said Jeff Kaczmarek, President & CEO of the EDC. “We want to partner with these companies and help them grow into thriving businesses that produce lifesaving treatments for patients with serious medical needs.”

Proteon officials said the creation of the Center helped them with their consolidation. “For the last twelve months, I have been working to get all of Proteon’s Kansas City development team under one roof,” said Nicholas Franano, M.D., Proteon’s Founder and Chief Scientific Officer. The Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City and the Missouri Department of Economic Development sat down with us early, listened to our needs and were able to come up with a good solution. They saw what we needed and acted; for that we are very grateful.”

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About the EDC of Kansas City

The Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Mo. is a not-for-profit organization providing business retention and recruitment, property redevelopment and community revitalization services throughout the city. The EDC also provides staff and project management services for the City of Kansas City’s statutory development agencies including the Tax Increment Financing Commission, Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, Downtown Economic Stimulus Authority and Port Authority. Businesses and development projects are assisted by the EDC through its various development incentives, loan programs, regulatory help and site location services.