

Integrated to move to new Oro Valley home

Biotech company relocates from UA science, tech park

By KYLE SCHLIESMAN

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Oro Valley soon will add another name to its list of resident bio-technology companies.

Last week, PICOR Commercial Real Estate Services announced that Integrated Biomolecule Corp. purchased an 81,022-square-foot lot in Rancho Vistoso in Oro Valley. The company plans to relocate from its current home at the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park and build a new 18,000-square-foot facility of its own. The company currently employs 10 people and plans to hire more once the new facility is completed.

A long-time tenant of the tech park, Integrated Biomolecule finally ran out of room at the university-related facility. Moving from the far southeastern end of the Tucson metropolitan area, the company will relocate to the far northwestern corner, where it will join other Oro Valley biotech companies, such as Ventana Medical Systems Inc. and Gum Technologies.

“We think it’s just a fantastic area. We think it will become the next high technology hub in Tucson,” said Robert Green, president of the 11-year-old company.

Construction will begin on the new facility in the next couple of months and wrap up near the end of this year, Green said. Integrated Biomolecule will occupy about 13,000 square feet of the building with laboratories and administrative offices, while leasing out the other 5,000 square feet.

The laboratory space will provide expanded room for the company to continue developing its technology and providing clients with scientific support. The company’s main function is the synthesis of biologically active compounds for use in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. The company also provides analytical testing of nutritional supplements. The company’s customers include numerous other pharmaceutical and bio-tech operations, including national organizations.

“It fits into the biomedical/life sciences kind of cluster that we’re developing,” said Jeff Weir, economic development coordinator for Oro Valley. “(Green) is extremely knowledgeable and, of course, extremely excited about coming here.”

In the mean time, Green will have the opportunity to address other bio medical experts from around the state during the Arizona Bio Expo 2003, April 25-26, held at the Pointe South Mountain Resort in Phoenix. Green will join a panel of other experts to discuss “Finding and Motivating Your Start-Up Team.”