

# THE TRIBUNE

AMES TRIBUNE > NEWS

## State approves financial aid for Hipra

Print Page

By Bob Zientara  
Staff Writer

Published: Friday, June 17, 2011 9:33 AM CDT

At least 60 high-paying jobs are due to be added to the Ames economy with the approval Thursday of \$475,000 in direct state financial aid to Labratorias Hipra, a Spanish animal health company.

The city of Ames and Ames Economic Development Commission will put up equal shares of a local aid package totaling \$148,500 in forgivable loans to Hipra USA LLC, the company's U.S. subsidiary. Local money helped leverage the state funds.

Kanan Kappelman, marketing manager at the Iowa Department of Economic Development, said state funds are being taken from IDEED's "high quality jobs" program. Under state rules, Hipra USA is expected to pay an average of \$20.84 per hour to its new hires in Ames, she said.

Hipra USA is expected to build a 75,000- to 100,000-square-foot building in the Iowa State University Research Park later this year and start producing animal vaccines by 2014, according to information it submitted to the city.

"Ames beat out the Kansas City market and several other major players around the country (to attract Hipra)," said Dan Culhane, president and CEO of the Ames Chamber of Commerce and Ames Economic Development Commission.

"This is a huge win for the community and central Iowa. It proves we can compete with large markets for developments like this."

Culhane said that Hipra was also attracted to Ames in part because of the presence of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Ames-based National Centers for Animal Health.

Hipra USA's application to the city of Ames indicated it would create 75 jobs at its Ames operation. Culhane said the company has indicated it plans to add more jobs after the operation gets up and running.

Kurt Kuta, president of the Ames Economic Development Commission board of directors and president and CEO of Ames Community Bank, said the university and the federal facilities were important points.

"But I think this also shows what can be accomplished when the city, commission, the university, the Research Park and the state make a joint effort," he said. "This is a great example of how it's supposed to work."

Sixty-one private investors put up about \$150,000 several years ago to create the commission's "Community Investment Fund," which will be used to provide the commission share of the local

investment, Kuta said.

"These funds are pledged separately from the rest of the (AEDC) budget," he said, and a new round of pledges will soon be sought by commission members.

"Obviously, this (Hipra) development is going to help us gather new pledges," Kuta said.

Bob Zientara can be reached at (515) 663-6961 or [rzientara@amestrib.com](mailto:rzientara@amestrib.com).

Copyright © 2011 - Ames Tribune