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ISU Research Park expands; Introducing Colorbiotics; Sauer-Danfoss grows in 2008; Ag Leader almost done with addition

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ISU Research Park expands

The Iowa State University Research Park has begun construction work on its newest building. The building will have more than 50,000 square feet of space in order to accommodate the continuing growth within the Research Park. In the course of the last year, the number of companies located in the Research Park grew 20 percent. The park currently hosts more than 40 companies and 17 campus organizations.

ISU Research Park Director Steve Carter has already secured commitments for a portion of the new addition. However, marketing will be done to advertise the remaining space. Phase one of the facility should be completed by early summer.

For additional information, check www.isupark.org.

Introducing Colorbiotics

September 2008 marked the completion of Colorbiotics, a division of the Becker Underwood Company. The company is a leading manufacturer of seed coating and colorants and a leading global producer of inoculants, beneficial nematodes and a wide range of agricultural and horticultural products. Most recently, Colorbiotics introduced Starburst, a color-enhanced mulch that will maintain its color throughout the season without risk of run-off into the soil.

"With 12 locations in nine countries, we could have located this building anywhere. Colorbiotics chose to build this building in Ames because of the availability of quality workers, the centralization for markets from the east coast to the west coast and lower cost of land," said Kent Rotert, marketing manager and building project manager.

The Ames Economic Development Commission is pleased to be a financial contributor of Colorbiotics and a partner liaison in securing incentives from other agencies.

Sauer-Danfoss grows in 2008

Sauer-Danfoss Inc., with three locations in Ames, recently completed a 36,000-square-foot expansion of its 13th Street location. Sauer used a \$2.2 million incentive package

from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the city of Ames and the AEDC to help fund the expansion. Additionally, they have hired more than 165 new employees and have invested more than \$11 million in facility improvements.

"Sauer-Danfoss has a longtime presence and commitment to Ames. We are pleased to have expanded our 13th Street location — the first since building the plant and offices in 1971," said Matt Bandler, director of human resources for Americas and APAC. "We are happy to expand in both physical size and in employment here in Ames."

Sauer-Danfoss is a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture and sale of engineered hydraulic, electric and electronic systems and components, for use primarily in applications of mobile equipment.

Ag Leader almost done with addition

Ames-based company Ag Leader has nearly completed a \$6 million, 98,000-square-foot addition to its facility, and the company plans to add at least 58 new jobs over the next three years.

With the promise of higher-wage jobs and building development, Ag Leader was awarded a 2008 Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program award from the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Ag Leader also received \$150,000 in low-interest and forgivable loans under this award. Additionally, the company has received tax benefits from the state's High Quality Jobs Creation program totaling approximately \$353,000. The state assistance process was facilitated in part by the Ames Economic Development Commission and the city of Ames through their industrial tax abatement program.

Ag Leader supplies electronic and software systems that enhance grain farming productivity through added precision in the guidance of field equipment, planting of seed, application of fertilizers and pesticides, monitoring of crop yields, and office analysis of geographically referenced field data.

"Ames has been an excellent place to operate my business for several reasons," said Al Myers, owner of Ag Leader. "The first is that Iowa State University has been a very good source of qualified employees for our professional positions, and we have hired literally dozens of ISU graduates into full-time professional jobs. The second is the outstanding living environment of the Ames area that has also helped us recruit professional employees from out of state."

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