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200 jobs coming to Lehigh County

Phillipsburg based Avantor will move to Stabler Center.

By Jenna Portnoy, OF THE MORNING CALL

11:02 AM EST, February 18, 2011

An international chemical manufacturer will move its corporate headquarters from Phillipsburg to Lehigh County thanks to nearly \$4 million in state grants and tax breaks, officials announced this morning.

Avantor Performance Materials Inc., formerly known as Mallinckrodt Baker, will move about 140 employees 20 miles west to the Stabler Corporate Center building once reserved for vaccine giant Sanofi Pasteur. Avantor plans to hire 60 additional workers over the next three years.

The corporate jobs pay close to \$80,000 a year. Phillipsburg plant and research employees would stay put.

The company's move to the Upper Saucon business park hinged on a \$3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant. On Monday, Gov. Tom Corbett sent Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham a letter approving the funds.

It marks the Republican governor's first release of RACP dollars. Cunningham was one of the few Democrats on Corbett's transition team.

The influx of 200 jobs would be the biggest since Olympus Corp. moved its North American headquarters to Stabler and "put that spot in Lehigh County on the map for corporate relocations," Cunningham has said.

Lehigh County and the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation helped the company secure a total of \$3.89 million in public funds, including the RACP money, \$600,000 in job creation tax credits, a \$200,000 opportunity grant and \$90,000 in job training assistance.

"A corporate relocation project of this size and importance comes along once or twice a decade," LVEDC President Philip B. Mitman said in a statement.

Avantor processes and distributes high purity acids, solvents, organic and inorganic chemicals for laboratory, pharmaceutical and microelectronic industries. In addition to the United States, it has facilities in Mexico, the Netherlands, Korea and Malaysia.

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Avantor Performance Materials will move jobs from Lopatcong Township to Upper Saucon Township

Published: Friday, February 18, 2011, 10:29 AM Updated: Friday, February 18, 2011, 10:35 AM



By Lynn Olanoff | The Express-Times

Phillipsburg-area chemical manufacturer **Avantor Performance Materials Inc.** is moving forward with plans to move 140 jobs to Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, Executive Don Cunningham announced this morning.

The company, previously known as Mallinckrodt Baker, **said earlier this month** that the move would not affect its manufacturing plant on North Broad Street in Phillipsburg. In all, Avantor employs about 460 in the Phillipsburg area.

Moving to Upper Saucon would be 140 employees housed at Avantor's Red School Lane headquarters in Lopatcong Township and in temporary office space in the Hampton area, company officials have said. The company also plans to create 60 new jobs when it moves, bringing its total Pennsylvania employment to 200.

"We outgrew our current facility and were looking for a space that would reflect our bold growth objectives and new brand," Jean-Marc Gilson, President and CEO of Avantor Performance Materials, says in a statement. **"We wanted a larger, more modern work space that would energize our employees. We're very pleased to have found such a facility in Pennsylvania."**

The deal was contingent upon the company receiving \$3.89 million in state grants, including a \$200,000 opportunity grant, a \$3 million grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, \$90,000 in job training assistance, and \$600,000 in job creation tax credits. Lehigh County and the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. helped the company obtain the state funding.

"A corporate relocation project of this size and importance comes along once or twice a decade," LVEDC President and CEO Philip Mitman said.

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