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NEMOURS BUYS LAKE NONA LAND

Final land acquisition puts Nemours' new pediatric health care facility officially on the map.

BY LEIGH DUNCAN

With the final acquisition June 17, 2008, of 60 acres of land in the heart of Lake Nona's medical city, Nemours pediatric health care facility is on the rise, literally speaking. Groundbreaking of the new facility is slated to begin in 2009, allowing enough time for the organization to fulfill its Certificate of Need (CON) requirements to the state. The pediatric health sys-

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tem officially plans to open its doors to children and families in 2012. "The potential for world-class alliances and groundbreaking medical research undoubtedly grows with the presence of Nemours' new facility," stated Rasesh Thakkar, senior managing director of the Tavistock

Group. "We look forward to enhancing the synergies between Nemours and other partners as this health and life science cluster develops at Lake Nona." According to Jarrod Cady, Nemours public relations manager, the top-tier pediatric health care system Nemours is planning to build will focus on the unique needs of medically complex children and offer a

comprehensive depth of specialized service of health care that isn't presently available in Central Florida. Some of the services include inpatient rehab, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, obesity programs and many more. "Without a fully integrated system,

the care of the medically complex child may be compromised, due to a lack of coordination of medical treatment and services," Cady said. "Nemours is building new facilities and providing new programs and services not readily available in Central Florida. The new pediatric health campus will provide access to a full line of specialty services necessary to meet the community's needs, which

means families will no longer have to travel outside the region to seek certain health care options their children need and deserve." The new Nemours Children's Hospital also is expected to improve pediatric care to the region through coordinated patient-centered medi-

cal services, biomedical research, medical and allied health training educational programs, as well as pediatric prevention services and child advocacy programs.

Cady added, "The development of the Nemours Children's Hospital and pediatric campus will do much to establish Central Florida as a leading health care region in the country. Nemours presence will help attract the best life science and biotechnology organizations to the area that will assist the Lake Nona Science & Technology Park in achieving the vision of being an incubator for medical breakthroughs."

Community need for specialized services is just one of the reasons Nemours chose to build in the area. Located in the heart of Lake Nona's Science & Technology Park the facility will be in very close proximity to four main anchors – the UCF College of Medicine, Burnham Institute for Medical Research and the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It's a synergistic opportunity Nemours expects to be "revolutionary."

The economic impact that development will have on the Central Florida community also is expected to be substantial. The construction phase alone is estimated to bring in about 5,000 new jobs that will generate more than \$166 million in wages while contributing more than \$700 million to the economy.

Cady offered estimates that within the first two years of the hospital opening, there will be about 1,900 jobs created providing \$109 million in wages and a resulting impact of \$414 million. After the first five years of operation, the new hospital is expected to have produced more than 2,600 jobs in the region.

Leading the construction challenge will be Skanska USA Building Company, Inc. It was recently contracted to oversee the building process for the new pediatric system. Skanska was chosen from a pool of possible contractors because of capability and experience in health care construction.

According to Jeffrey E. Green, Nemours vice president and chief administrative officer, and hospital design team project executive, "Skanska USA Building Company is a welcome addition to this group, particularly with its tremendous international and national reputation for building truly innovative structures and its strong health care facility experience that the Central Florida team brings to the project. We have confidence that the company will make our vision of pediatric care in the 21st Century a reality!" ■

THE NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND PEDIATRIC CAMPUS WILL ESTABLISH CENTRAL FLORIDA AS A LEADING HEALTH CARE REGION