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## KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

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# Idaho company will put center in Edwardsville, add 30 jobs

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The KC Animal Health Corridor initiative has bagged its largest new company to date.

On Wednesday, officials of the regional economic development effort reported that MWI Veterinary Supply Inc., based in Meridian, Idaho, had selected a site in Edwardsville for its new Midwest distribution center.

The company (Nasdaq: MWIV), which reported \$606 million in 2006 revenue, will lease a 105,000-square-foot space and add 30 jobs in Edwardsville.

The development is a direct result of the animal health initiative -- a joint effort launched last year by the Kansas City Area Development Council, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Inc.

"They came to us through our Web site," said Ashlie Hand, director of communications for the KCADC.

According to the **Web site**, the Kansas City region is the national leader in the animal health and nutrition industry, with area companies accounting for nearly 32 percent of the industry's \$15.2 billion in annual global sales.

"MWI is excited to have a presence in the Kansas City region," Jim Cleary, CEO of MWI Veterinary Supply, said in a release. "We conducted a search for locations for the new facility, and Kansas City made the most sense due to the logistical advantages and the concentration of animal health companies in the area."

In the past year, the KC Animal Health Corridor has attracted two corporations -- Synbiotics Corp. and IdentiGEN -- and the U.S. Animal Health Association to the region.

The ability to attract MWI "further demonstrates the strength of the corridor and significantly adds to the strong asset base that exists here," Joerg Ohle said in the release; he is chairman of the KC Animal Health Corridor advisory board and president and general manager of Bayer Corp.'s Animal Health Division, North America.

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