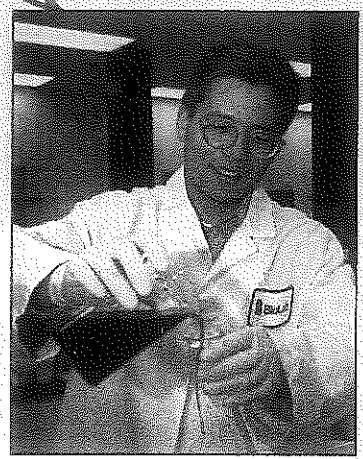


10/15/95 BioLab

Decatur's BioLab announces plan to relocate



File photo

Tian Lau pours chemicals at Biolab.

By Mark W. Maguire
DeKalb Neighbor News Editor

Three years shy of celebrating 50 years in Decatur, one of the city's more lucrative businesses is packing its bags to relocate.

"We have successfully grown this business over the last 47 years, adding to our existing facilities as we've needed to," said Larry Bloom, president and CEO of BioLab. "What has resulted is a less than optimum space that cannot effectively support continued growth and retention of our employees. We have to

look at all the options as we position BioLab for further growth."

A multi-national producer of pool chemicals with more than 1,000 employees around the globe, BioLab has been headquartered on East College Avenue since 1955.

The company also leases a building on North Decatur Road. In total, the facilities encompass only 67,000 square feet.

Originally founded by Decatur resident Leon Bloom as a provider of sanitation products, the company is now owned by Great Lakes Chemical Corp., a publicly held company

which makes an assortment of specialty chemicals.

More than 220 employees work at the Decatur site, which houses both the company's worldwide headquarters and a facility dedicated to research and development.

As part of the relocation, BioLab has enlisted commercial real estate firm Insignia/ESG to aid in the process.

The only specific guidelines for a new location is adequate space to house both the office headquarters and the research operations, said BioLab spokesman Andy Bowen.

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Decatur's BioLab moving to Gwinnett County

By TONY WILBERT
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BioLab Inc. is headed to Gwinnett County.

After 47 years on East College Avenue in Decatur, the company that provides swimming pool care products has decided to move to the Huntcrest mixed-use project at I-85 and Old Peachtree Road.

BioLab will begin moving workers next spring.

The ability of Huntcrest to accommodate BioLab's headquarters and a new research facility played a key role in its decision to relocate there, said John Shlesinger, an Insignia/ESG broker who represents BioLab.

Huntcrest is situated near Discover Mills mall and the

new Arena at Gwinnett Center.

"It just turned out to be a great location for them," Shlesinger said.

A division of Great Lakes Chemical Corp. of Indianapolis, BioLab leased 89,000 square feet at Hillside III at Huntcrest, a five-story office building, according to Kerry Armstrong, senior vice

president of Duke Realty's Atlanta Office Group.

BioLab leased the space for 12 years.

BioLab also committed to lease a two-story, 50,000-square-foot research facility that Duke will build for BioLab at a site adjacent to the office building. The new facility is scheduled to be completed in March 2004.

The overall transaction is valued at more than \$30 million and offers a glimmer of hope for the local office market, which is suffering through a dismal year.

BioLab has more than 220 employees at its headquarters, research facility and leased facility on North Decatur Road. Insignia/ESG has been hired to sell its headquarters

building.

Simultaneous with the completion of the BioLab lease, Duke exercised its option to buy out its partner at Hillside III, M.D. Hodges Enterprises of Vinings.

Hodges is the master developer of Huntcrest, a 416-acre mixed-use project along I-85 between Sugarloaf Parkway and Old Peachtree Road.