

GOVERNOR PATRICK BREAKS GROUND ON ALEXANDRIA CENTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS IN CAMBRIDGE

Campus will be future headquarters of life sciences company Biogen Idec and its 530 employees



Governor Patrick highlights his Administration's job creation efforts at a groundbreaking ceremony for Alexandria Center at Kendall Square. (Photo: Matt Bennett/Governor's Office)

CAMBRIDGE -- Thursday, October 27, 2011 -- Governor Deval Patrick today joined state and local officials, business leaders and members of the life sciences community for the groundbreaking of the first building of the Alexandria Center science and technology campus at Kendall Square. The properties will be the future home of Biogen Idec, a global, biopharmaceutical company moving its headquarters, along with 530 employees, to Cambridge.

"The innovation economy is Massachusetts' global calling card and projects like Alexandria Center confirm that our investments are paying off," said Governor Patrick. "Alexandria's Kendall Square development will create new jobs for the region and strengthen our already robust innovation economy."

Alexandria Center at Kendall Square is a 1.73 million square foot, 11 acre world-class, build-to-suit science and technology campus located in the heart of Cambridge. The development will ultimately include five state-of-the-art buildings with flexible, modern laboratory and high-tech office settings, as well as a variety of innovative spaces designed to encourage collaboration.

"We are delighted that Biogen Idec is moving its headquarters to Cambridge and that the Alexandria Real Estate development in Kendall Square is commencing," said Cambridge Mayor David P. Maher. "This development promises to create more open space, retail space and housing opportunities, in addition to the new lab and commercial spaces. This project is further evidence that Cambridge remains the Innovation Hub of the region."

The Patrick-Murray Administration has made unprecedented investments in the life sciences industry. In June 2008, Governor Patrick signed the Massachusetts Life Sciences Act, a 10-year, \$1 billion initiative. The act tasked the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center with creating jobs in the life sciences and support vital scientific research that will improve the human condition. This work includes making financial investments in public and private institutions that are advancing life sciences research, development and commercialization, as well as building ties between sectors of the Massachusetts life sciences community.

"Biogen Idec's selection of Alexandria Center at Kendall Square for its executive offices demonstrates the unparalleled quality, flexibility and cutting-edge design that define Alexandria's properties worldwide," said Tom Andrews, senior vice president and regional market director of Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. "Many leading biopharmaceutical companies are strategically locating in Alexandria's Cambridge-area properties because of their proven ability to support the development of scientific breakthroughs by providing outstanding facilities in this globally recognized center of life sciences research and development."

The six-story, 307,000 square foot, highly-sustainable building at 225 Binney is being designed specifically for Biogen Idec by award-winning firm Spagnolo Gisness & Associates, Inc. The innovative design will feature a glass and brick facade and will incorporate two historic buildings. The building at 17 Cambridge Center, being developed by Boston Properties, is a 190,000 square foot building. Both properties will be ready for Biogen Idec in 2013 and will be the first buildings of the Alexandria Center at Kendall Square and the future home of Biogen Idec, a global, investment-grade Biopharmaceutical company.

"Massachusetts is already seen as a leader in healthcare technology, life sciences and clean technology and in order to keep our economy moving forward, continued investment in these cutting-edge industries is crucial," said Senator Karen Spilka, Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "By basing their headquarters in the Commonwealth, Biogen Idec will solidify our reputation as a leader in the biopharmaceutical industry and will also help to ensure continued economic development and job creation for the state."

"This project highlights the city of Cambridge's continued role as global center for innovation," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "As life science companies continue to make this region their home, it will help grow the local economy and create long-term employment opportunities for our state's residents."

The Patrick-Murray Administration's strategy brings together industry, academic research hospitals and public and private colleges and universities to coordinate this effort, spur new research, strengthen investments, create new jobs and produce new therapies for a better quality of life. The initiative is focused on five points of the development cycle to ensure a comprehensive statewide strategy: funding, planning, research, development and commercialization. According to the MassBIO, the Commonwealth is home to 1,400-1,500 biotechnology and life sciences companies, including agricultural or industrial biotechnology, bioinformatics, contract research and manufacturing, drug development, human diagnostic development, medical device and research products and instrumentation.

"Alexandria has been a generous community partner, agreeing to provide an unprecedented level of sorely-needed parkland and community space to the residents of East Cambridge who will be directly impacted by the development," said Representative Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. "As Kendall Square continues its exciting, meteoric growth into what has been described as 'the most innovative square mile on the planet,' it is important to partner with responsible developers, like Alexandria, who demonstrate a vested interest in the surrounding neighborhood."

"Massachusetts has secured its position as a global leader in the life sciences through smart investments and effective partnerships between industry and state government," said Representative Joseph F. Wagner, House chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "With projects like Alexandria's Kendall Square development, we are seeing that commitment foster economic growth and create new jobs for our residents."

To learn more about the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and how it is supporting job growth and helping support the Commonwealth's innovation economy, please be sure to visit www.masslifesciences.com.