



**CONTACT**  
Sheena Johnson  
Director of Communications & Marketing  
919.682.2133  
[sjohnson@durhamchamber.org](mailto:sjohnson@durhamchamber.org)  
[www.durhamchamber.org](http://www.durhamchamber.org)

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**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

## **Merck & Co., Inc. to invest \$300 million in Durham, North Carolina expansion**

**DURHAM, NC** - The Durham County Board of Commissioners recently approved incentives to secure Merck & Co., Inc.'s \$300 million expansion in Durham's Treyburn Corporate Park.

"The incentives from Durham County combined with abundant community collaboration and resources continue to make Durham a great place to do business," said Merck's Durham Plant Manager John Wagner.

The expansion, which will include a new bulk vaccine manufacturing facility as well as additions to the utility warehouse and administrative infrastructures, is scheduled to begin construction this year and be completed in 2011, bringing the projected total number of employees at the site to approximately 400.

"Merck's expansion continues to enhance and build our county's growing life sciences cluster, particularly in the area of Treyburn Corporate Park," said Ellen Reckhow, Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners. "This expansion is an outstanding testimony to the positive business environment of Durham County and the strong level of service and support that Merck receives from our economic development partners."

This is the second expansion for Merck in Durham since it announced the construction of its vaccine manufacturing facility. Merck will have invested \$750 million in its Durham campus upon completion.

"I never imagined that I would see this much investment at the campus so soon," said Wagner. "Experiencing this level of confidence from the Merck board and management is certainly a tribute to the total effort that has been committed to make our location and growth here a success and all I can say is a heartfelt thank you to all that have contributed greatly to our success."

In 2004, Merck decided to locate its new vaccine manufacturing campus in Durham after an extensive national search. The company kicked off construction on the first phase of the campus with a \$300 million, 235,000-square-foot facility in Treyburn Corporate Park. Phase I was completed this year and the facility is on schedule to become fully licensed to begin supplying vaccines to markets around the world in late 2009.

In December 2006, Merck announced Phase II of the Durham facility: an expansion that includes a sterile processing facility, quality testing labs and high speed packaging line



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totaling approximately 110,000 square feet. Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

In June, Governor Mike Easley announced that Merck planned to again invest an additional \$300 million to expand its Durham vaccine manufacturing facility, creating an additional 150 new jobs.

“Merck’s expansion is a positive indication that Durham is a community where the life sciences industry is strong and continues to flourish. This expansion is enabled by the collective support and influence of our business community, local and state government, our outstanding utility providers, the North Carolina Community College System and our state’s strong colleges and universities,” said Earl Tye, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce.

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#### About Merck

Merck & Co., Inc. discovers, develops, manufactures and markets vaccines and medicines to address unmet medical needs. The mission of Merck is to provide society with superior products and services by developing innovations and solutions that improve the quality of life and satisfy customer needs, and to provide employees with meaningful work and advancement opportunities, and investors with a superior rate of return.

#### About the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization with more than 1,100 dues-paying members that serves its members by helping to create and sustain a healthy economic climate. The Chamber also serves as Durham County’s primary economic development organization.