



Microbiologics looks to expand



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11:31 a.m. CDT June 17, 2016



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Microbiologics Inc. is looking to grow with a 30,000-square-foot expansion and up to 35 new full-time employees.

The St. Cloud-based biological material supply company is requesting support from St. Cloud City Council to apply for money from the Minnesota Job Creation Fund, a state-funded economic development program.

The proposed expansion — estimated to cost \$7.2 million — would consist of labs supporting research and development, production and office space at its existing facility on Cooper Avenue North, according to Cathy Mehelich, St. Cloud economic development director. The expansion would allow for the creation of up to 35 new employees with an average wage of \$21 per hour.



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Microbiologics expands product line

The company employs 111 people locally. It also has a facility in Lexington, Kentucky, that employs 23 people.

The actual award amount will be determined by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development after it scores submitted applications. The city serves as the local government project sponsor and facilitates the application process.

The company has an existing \$250,000 tax-increment financing agreement that was approved in 2011 under a previous expansion. According to Mehelich, there would be no increase to the TIF as part of the proposed expansion, and the expansion might expedite payment of the TIF as a result of the increased market value.

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Microbiologics is a worldwide producer of freeze-dried microorganisms used for quality control and proficiency testing in microbiology labs in a variety of industries and clinical settings. The company distributes supplies to more than 130 countries.

St. Cloud City Council will consider the resolution at its meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at St. Cloud's City Hall.



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