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Cargill gets KBA support for possible downtown project

Wichita Business Journal - by [Chris Moon](#)

The Kansas Bioscience Authority has awarded a \$750,000 grant to Cargill Meat Solutions to help with the construction of a new research facility in Wichita.

The grant will be paid out over five years to support the construction of “a state-of-the-art technology and innovation center focused on food safety and the development of new food products,” the KBA said in a news release. The KBA said the project would cost \$15 million, retain 51 jobs and result in the hiring of an estimated 10 new employees.

Minneapolis, Minn.-based **Cargill Inc.** has said it hopes to build **a new research and development facility in downtown Wichita** but is awaiting corporate approval for the project. The company hasn't disclosed the exact location of the facility.

Cargill would relocate its research and development operation from its operation at 2901 N. Mead, which it sold earlier this year. Among other things, that operation performs pathogen testing as it relates to food-borne illnesses.

If it receives corporate approval, the company wants to move that site closer to downtown, says Mike Martin, a company spokesman.

“Any funding support (or) incentive moneys would certainly help,” he says.

The Kansas Bioscience Authority grant was part of a \$2.2 million award the agency announced Monday that will go to five entities in Kansas.

“In a challenging economic environment, it's exciting to see businesses confidently investing millions in expansions that will position them for growth in sectors in which Kansas has internationally recognized bioscience strengths,” said KBA President Tom Thornton in a news release.

The Kansas Bioscience Authority was established in 2004 by the Kansas Legislature to expand the state's bioscience industry.



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