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Purdue Research Park in the market for tenants

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The first building in the Purdue Research Park at Ameriplex opened Wednesday with lofty ambitions, but just one tenant.

FlamencoNets, a data network company that provides private Internet service, will bring five employees to the Indianapolis park. It was founded by telecommunications executive Raul Flamenco, Carmel.

In today's sour economy, Purdue and its partners have the difficult task of trying to lure 75 companies to fill 15 to 20 buildings planned for the park. The hope is that they will create 1,500 jobs paying an average of \$50,000 a year.

"As hard as things are, we have never had so much interest in economic development," said Joseph B. Hornett, Purdue Research Foundation senior vice president. "We're working with at least 10 proposals for companies to locate in Purdue business parks around the state."

The site near Indianapolis International Airport is the fourth research and business park in the Purdue system, which now boasts more than 3,300 workers.

Purdue has a history of turning university-based research into full-fledged companies and helping other startups grow. Since 2002, 56 companies have been formed at the university's West Lafayette park, creating 447 jobs with average pay of \$58,000.

In the university's fiscal year 2007, 10 companies were formed based on technology developed at Purdue. In the previous fiscal year, 15 startups were launched.

Purdue is betting that a wave of development eventually will sweep through its new Indianapolis research park, part of the 1,500-acre Ameriplex business complex.

University President France Córdoba said the location, with its access to the FedEx hub at the airport, will "provide an additional incentive for national and international companies to choose Indiana as the place to do business."

The \$12.8 million incubator building offers 55,000 square feet of Class A office space and could hold 12 to 20 small companies.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard said the city provided a \$5 million grant for the project in hopes that it will attract high-paying jobs.

The land is a joint project of Purdue's Research Foundation and South Bend-based Holladay Properties, which has been developing Ameriplex over the past 16 years.

Additional Facts

PURDUE RESEARCH PARKS

» **West Lafayette:** North of Purdue University's main campus, the 725-acre site has more than 140 companies that employ nearly 1,000 people. It's the state's first designated tech park.

» **Ameriplex-Indianapolis:** The 78-acre park is designed to accommodate up to 75 businesses and create 1,500 jobs, mostly in life sciences and high-tech areas.

» **Ameriplex at the Crossroads/Merrillville:** The park is 386 acres and is west of I-65 in Merrillville, 40 miles from Chicago. It houses about 23 companies, mostly in information technology.

» **New Albany:** On Ind. 311, adjacent to I-265 in New Albany. The park is 40 acres, and its flagship incubator is the 40,000-square-foot Purdue Technology Center of Southeast Indiana.

Source: Purdue Research Parks

