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Chicago biotech company will move to Madison

James Edward Mills Wisconsin State Journal

Madison's biotechnology community will soon greet a new arrival from Chicago.

Clonex Development, an early-stage biotech company involved in genetic engineering, will receive a pair of state grants to bring the company to Wisconsin.

Clonex will get **\$135,000** from the **Department of Commerce Technology Venture Fund and Technology Assistance grant programs** to help buy equipment and hire professional technical assistance.

"My 'Grow Wisconsin' plan calls for making investments in new, early-stage companies that support and create family-supporting jobs across Wisconsin," Gov. Jim Doyle said in a statement.

Thomas Primiano, president and chief executive of Clonex, said the company has nine employees and may hire as many as five employees over the next two years.

"We are extremely enthusiastic to join the dynamic biotechnology environment here in Madison," Primiano said. "The critical mass of biotech companies makes Madison a very attractive place to be."

Primiano said Wisconsin's leading role in stem-cell research influenced his decision to move his company to Madison. He also said the lower cost of operating a corporation in Wisconsin, compared to Illinois, helped make the move possible.

Tony Hozeny, a spokesman with the **Department of Commerce**, said Clonex will have offices in the TEC Incubator Center, 359 Anderson St., on the East Side.

Contact reporter James Edward Mills at jmills@madison.com or 252-6158.