

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS JOURNAL

Monsanto building corn breeding complex

by Associated Press

Published: March 10, 2010

FLORA — To better serve the needs of southern farmers, Monsanto has broken ground on a new corn breeding station in Flora.

The 26,000-square-foot, \$2.4-million corn breeding station, located in the Flora Industrial Park, will employ approximately 10 full-time and up to 50 seasonal workers. Corn production in the southern region has been growing in the last several years, and the new site's research focus will be on using the latest breeding techniques to develop higher-yielding corn hybrids with greater resistance to disease and other environmental stresses, specifically adapted to the region.

The site will complement Monsanto's global breeding program and become part of a network of more than 50 corn breeding locations around the world.

"Our focus on research and development is what makes Monsanto a leader in agricultural productivity," said Ted Crosbie, global breeding lead for St. Louis-based Monsanto. "Our new facility in Flora will help further strengthen our R&D capabilities, and also is a great opportunity for us to strengthen relationships and collaborations in the southern states."

Monsanto currently has three technology research sites in the Mississippi Delta at Scott, Leland and Winterville, which are focused on delivering cotton and soy varieties and traits to meet the needs of southern farmers.

Southeast Industrial Properties I, LLC, a joint venture between Jackson-based Hines Investments Inc. and Duckworth Realty Inc., has been awarded the build-to-suit project by Monsanto.

Peoples Construction Corp. is the general contractor.