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SmartVet picks Olathe for its U.S. headquarters

Kansas City Business Journal by David Twiddy, Reporter

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Australian animal health firm SmartVet is setting up its U.S. headquarters on **Kansas State University**'s Olathe campus.

The 5-year-old company announced its move into the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor on Friday during the Kansas City Area Development Council's annual meeting.

SmartVet entered the U.S. market earlier this year with the VetCap Delivery System, a device similar to a paintball gun that allows farmers and ranchers to apply capsules of insecticide for flies and ticks from as far as 30 feet away.

The VetCap system was released in the Southeastern United States through a partnership with St. Joseph-based AgriLabs Inc.

<u>Randall Tosh</u>, vice president of business development, is SmartVet's sole U.S. employee, but he said additional employees will come as the company builds its U.S. customer base and releases new products.

"Clearly, the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor offers real opportunity and advantage for us as a company," Tosh said. "We're still very much in the (research and development) stage with our next-generation product," and how quickly employment increases will depend largely on regulatory approval.

The Animal Health Corridor is a region stretching from Manhattan, Kan., to Columbia, Mo., that has one of the nation's largest concentrations of animal health research and manufacturing companies.

David reports about health care and transportation.