

Bend Bulletin

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Bend Research, Merck reach deal

Tumalo-based drug-technology developer Bend Research Inc. announced Monday it has reached a detailed agreement to work with the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc. Since ending its exclusive partnership with Pfizer in 2008, Bend Research has done some work for Merck, said President Jim Nightingale. The new contract indicates a longer-term relationship with Merck, sets forth the specific work Bend Research will do and establishes compensation details, he said. The agreement came about after Merck came to perceive the value of Bend Research's intellectual property, Nightingale said.

Bend Research will not go back to being a one-client company, he said.

"Our business model is that — while we're very grateful to work with Merck, because they are a leading company — we work with many other large pharmaceuticals that are also leading companies, and we're very fortunate to have them all as clients," he said.

Nightingale said Bend Research will add employees as a result of the expanded relationship with Merck, although he did not know how many. The company currently has more than 240 employees at four facilities in Central Oregon.