



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Novatex North America selects Ashland, Ohio as the site for its US headquarters

Ashland, October 30, 2006 – Novatex North America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Novatex GmbH of Hannover, Germany announced today that it selected Ashland as the site for its headquarters and manufacturing operations. This announcement concludes 5 months of intense negotiations with customers and suppliers, banks and developers, and local and state government. As a result Novatex NA was able to secure a multi-year contract from a US customer for the manufacture of baby nipples.

“This business provides us the opportunity to establish a US presence and manufacturing operation”, said Armin Struckmeier, managing director of [Novatex GmbH](#) and president of Novatex NA. “We are excited that we were able to compete successfully with competitors from low-cost countries and expect to manufacture other baby products for our existing and growing customer base in the USA”.

Novatex North America will purchase equipment from Hospira, Inc. and relocate it to a new 34,000 sq.ft. building in the [Ashland City](#) business park, leased from [Simonson Holding](#), Ltd. “It became apparent that without a suitable building the business would locate somewhere else and we were glad to assist Novatex and keep manufacturing jobs in our community”, said Bob Simonson, president of Simonson Holding. The building will be completed by January 2007 and Novatex NA plans to start production during the second quarter of 2007.

“Based upon my research and meetings with Novatex officials, I can say without reservation that this company is the ideal first tenant for our business park” said Mayor Strine. “I look forward to this being a great success story for the community, company and State”.

[Novatex GmbH](#) is a leading manufacturer and distributor of infant care products serving customers in 90 countries.