

NorthStar site coming to life

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NorthStar's new facility at 1800 Gateway Blvd. is starting to come to life with some employees working at the corporate headquarters building in Beloit.

NorthStar Radioisotope Co-Founder George Messina said the company is doing well and preparing for its next step.

NorthStar launched its first development on the 32-acre site in the Gateway Business Park in May, and the company said it planned to consolidate with its Madison building in June. The Beloit building features corporate offices, a call center and assembly line. The company expects to have 30 employees working in Beloit by November.

"We haven't had all the employees move in," Messina said. "We have started the consolidation process. There's a lot of work to be done."

Some of that additional work is completing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration validation process before all employees move in. Messina said the Madison facility will never be closed, just used for engineering, science and laboratory facility, while operations will move to Beloit.

The company is seeking U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval to produce medical radioisotope molybdenum-99 (Mo-99). If approved, it will be the first company in the United States to produce the radioisotope, which is a vital part in diagnosing cancer and heart disease in patients.

NorthStar works with the Missouri University Research Reactor, which produces Mo-99 on site. The medical isotopes then are delivered to NorthStar, and then shipped to hospitals. The Beloit site will have the capability to not only ship new Mo-99 vials, but clean the shielded containers for reuse. Future plans call for on-site production of Mo-99.

Messina said the company will submit its final application in November or December of this year.

"We're in pretty good shape financially. None of our investors have lost confidence in us... there's an awful lot of steps to ensure our product is going to be safe and consistently safe," he said.

The company plans to host a public open house in early spring.

"We're hoping people come see what NorthStar is all about," Messina said.

The second phase of the Beloit project is to build a 20,000-square-foot addition, which is planned to be completed in 2016. A third phase is to add a 100,000-square-foot linear particle accelerator which will be used to produce Mo-99 on site. Construction of that facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.