



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**

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## We're in Snohomish County because of great business climate, international biotech executive tells peers

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*Speedy permitting, excellent local and state assistance and a quality  
workforce convinced European firm to choose County site*

MAINZ, GERMANY – A top international biotech executive says his company chose to locate in Snohomish County because of speedy permitting, excellent local and state assistance, skilled workers and a concentration of other biotech firms.

Local and state leaders in Europe to woo other companies say that's a message that will resonate as they focus their efforts to bring even more business to Washington state.

Dr. Winfried Haumesser, Director of Industrial Operations and Environment for Schering AG, cited the favorable business climate in comments today during a luncheon with German business executives. Lauding Snohomish County's economic development efforts as the state's most competitive, he predicted that more biotech and biomedical manufacturers would soon follow Schering to the county.

At the meeting were Governor Christine Gregoire, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Economic Development Council president Deborah Knutson and Washington State trade delegation members along for the Paris Air Show and talks with more than a dozen international biotech and aerospace companies.

Haumesser said the reason Berlex Laboratories, a Schering subsidiary, chose to build a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in south Snohomish County was because of the

strong partnership the company developed with County and state governments. He estimated that it will allow Schering's subsidiary, Berlex Laboratories, to open its new facility almost a year earlier than company officials anticipated.

Executive Reardon said the business leader's comments underscore Snohomish County's commitment to bring more biotech manufacturers to the Northwest.

"Snohomish County and Washington state can compete with anybody in the world," Executive Reardon said today. "Berlex could have located its manufacturing facility anywhere, but they came to Snohomish County because we have a ready pool of talented employees, affordable land on which to build and a keen desire to see more biotech locate locally."

Berlex Laboratories is investing more than \$70 million in manufacturing facility to make biotech drugs in south Snohomish County, near 164<sup>th</sup> Street SW. At the outset it will employ 70 workers in highly skilled family wage jobs. Berlex is building the factory to manufacture the drug Leukine for markets in cancer care and a potential new market as a treatment for Crohn's disease – a condition of the intestines.

Snohomish County is already home to nearly 25 percent of Washington State's biotechnology jobs, with a cluster near Bothell. Berlex officials say the company could employ as many as 180 workers at its new complex as early as 2009 if demand for its new product grows.

Executive Reardon said his administration is focused on bringing even more biotech jobs to the Snohomish County area. In *A Blueprint for the Economic Future of Snohomish County*, the Executive's Citizens Cabinet identified the biotech industry as one that would benefit from increased educational and workforce training opportunities.

A four-year polytechnic university in Snohomish County would be regarded as a particularly positive development by businesses, Executive Reardon said. The state Legislature recently approved a \$500,000 study of a university in Snohomish County, one that Executive Reardon says should underscore the need for an institution like the California State Polytechnic University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Investment in education and technology infrastructure *is essential* to the on-going success of the biotechnology industry in Snohomish County," Executive Reardon said. "A skilled and educated workforce – particularly in life sciences and bioengineering disciplines – is the foundation on which the next generation of Berlex Laboratories will be built.

"Dr. Haumesser's points were right on."

As a state legislator, Executive Reardon worked to bring businesses and jobs to Washington, chairing of the House Committee on Economic Competitiveness in 2002. In

the State Senate, he was ranking member on Technology and Communications Committee.

For his efforts, the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association named Reardon its 2002 state Legislator of the Year.

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