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### **FUZZY WUZZY WAS A.... CATERPILLAR???**

LEXINGTON, KY – Miracles really aren't much of a challenge for caterpillars ... after all, lots of them can transform into beautiful butterflies. But who knew they could lower the cost of vaccines and therapeutics that prevent or treat a wide ranges of diseases? The University of Kentucky researchers who formed ParaTechs, that's who.



ParaTechs has a special line of patented insect cells from caterpillars. Their cell line employs the baculovirus expression vector system used to manufacture proteins. These proteins are used in vaccines and therapeutics. ParaTechs technology improves protein production and helps lower the manufacturing costs. And as you may have already guessed, all of this is possible thanks to those fuzzy insects – caterpillars!

Shannon Bass, CEO of ParaTechs, came to the Bluegrass Business Development Partnership (BBDP) in hopes of good news. As their products grow in popularity, they need to hire more employees and move to a larger location. She knew that these are things that the BBDP could help with. And in the end, after many meetings with BBDP and Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development staff, good news is exactly what she received. ParaTechs has been awarded \$120,000 from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development's High Tech Investment Pool. These funds will allow ParaTechs to purchase the equipment they need to relocate to their larger location and hire an anticipated seven new people in high-tech jobs that pay an average of at least \$55,000 annually.

"Lexington is becoming a hotbed for biotech companies," said Mayor Jim Newberry, who has focused the city's economic development efforts on the horse, high tech and healthcare sectors because of their great potential to produce good-paying jobs. "Our success is fueled, in large part, by the brainpower of University of Kentucky researchers, as demonstrated by ParaTechs, by a highly educated workforce and by a high quality of life that makes Lexington a very attractive place to live, work and raise a family."

"ParaTechs has an amazing patented technology and we're proud that this technology and ParaTechs call Lexington home," said Bob Quick, President & CEO of Commerce Lexington Inc. "We look forward to watching them continue to grow and prosper and to assist them in any way possible."

"This is truly an exciting time for ParaTechs," said Pat Powell of UK's Innovation and Commercialization Center. "Not only are they commercializing research from our great university, they are also changing the face of our economy."

ParaTechs also markets NSET™, a non-surgical embryo transfer device for researchers who use laboratory rodents in a wide range of medical research, including cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes studies. This device reduces costs for mouse embryo transfer procedures and eliminates the need for animal anesthesia and recovery normally required for conventional surgical procedures.

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The Bluegrass Business Development Partnership (BBDP) is a one-stop, super-service provider linking you with our team of business development specialists from LFUCG, Commerce Lexington Inc., and the University of Kentucky. Want more information on the BBDP? Contact Gina Greathouse at 859-226-1623 or [ggreathouse@commercelexington.com](mailto:ggreathouse@commercelexington.com).