

DUNKIRK FACTORY

Athenex signs general contractor



COURTESY OF ATHENEX

The Athenex factory will be dedicated to manufacturing cancer therapies.

BY DAN MINER

dminer@bizjournals.com

716-541-1616, @BfloBiz_Minor

Athenex Inc. hired a German firm to oversee construction of its large pharmaceutical plant in Dunkirk.

M&W Group describes itself as a “global leader in the design, engineering and construction of high tech facilities and major

complex projects,” the website says. The company will be tasked with building a facility that is unique to Western New York. Clark Patterson Lee, a design firm with offices across New York State, will be the primary site engineer/designer for the project.

The Athenex factory is supported by a state grant of \$200 million and will be dedicated to manufacturing cancer therapies developed by Athenex and other companies. Once all phases

are completed, the overall size is expected to be 320,000 square feet.

The Athenex deal with the state says the factory will create at least 900 jobs in the Dunkirk area, half of them directly employed by the company. Athenex pledged to invest a minimum of \$1.52 billion in the facility.

The company started in the University at Buffalo laboratory of professor David Hanguauer in 2003 and grew in spurts over the next decade until attracting the attention of overseas investors. It subsequently raised more than \$200 million from private investors in Asia to support the global vision as a developer and manufacturer of cancer therapies.

The company went public on the NASDAQ stock exchange last June. Shares sell at \$15.55 and the current value of outstanding stock is \$901 million.

Athenex announced the deal with M&W in a filing last week, estimating the cost of its work between \$205 million and \$210 million, most of which will be supported by New York state.

Athenex said in its last conference call that it wants to break ground on the factory by April and reported previously that work will take place in two phases. The larger, first phase will be the main 281,180-square-foot facility to include high-tech manufacturing space, warehousing and offices/labs, with expected completion in 2019. A second phase will involve a 39,000-square-foot expansion for manufacturing and offices/labs, with estimated completion in 2020.