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AUTOMOTIVE AND LIFE sciences are competing for the top-contender title in south-central Indiana's growth, with home storage and paper also making strong showings in the five-county region.

Life sciences the new darling. In life sciences Monroe County holds the strong suit in the pharmaceutical industry, with growth at Bloomington's Cook Pharmica LLC, a spin-off of the county's own Cook Group, reports Linda Williamson, executive director of the Bloomington Economic Development Corp.

Cook Pharmica is spending \$45 million on a new state-of-the-art drug-development facility that will employ 200 initially. It could grow to become a \$200 million biotech manufacturing facility and bring 600 new jobs to the area in the next five years. The expansion is occurring in a 450,000-square-foot facility once occupied by Thomson Consumer Electronics in what is now known as the **Indiana Enterprise Center**. The company will do contract manufacturing for the biotech drug industry.

Home storage hot. Also in Bloomington, Cincinnati-based Schulte Corp., which makes home storage and organization products, has purchased a 630,000-square-foot building in the **Indiana Enterprise Center**. The spring 2005 move will more than double the company's manufacturing space and increase employment from today's 125 by 220 over the next five years.