

Midwest Research Institute buys building in North Kansas City

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Midwest Research Institute, which has seen a surge in new projects in recent years, has bought a commercial building in North Kansas City to hold additional lab and office space.

The Kansas City-based nonprofit research organization said Thursday that it had bought a nearly 90,000-square-foot facility at 1222 Ozark St. in Paseo Industrial Park and will begin occupying the site in mid-March. A spokeswoman declined to give a price for the purchase.

The new building will provide space for existing areas of research as well as new types of client services, said **Thomas Sack**, MRI's director of technical services.

"We were delighted to find suitable space so quickly and only eight miles from our headquarters operation," Sack said in a release.

MRI's headquarters underwent a \$28 million expansion and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) upgrade in 2009 with the expectation that it would serve the company's needs for five years. But a decision for MRI to begin pursuing research projects as a lead contractor dramatically increased the amount of activity and employees at the organization.

CEO **Michael Helmstetter** said in December that [MRI had started looking for new space](#). He said about 50 employees initially would move into the new space, which eventually would accommodate 80 to 100 employees.

Agents with Kessinger/Hunter and Co. brokered both sides of the deal, with **Patrick McGannon** representing the seller and **Joseph Accurso** representing MRI.