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HHMI Purchases Land in Loudoun County, Virginia

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) of Chevy Chase, Maryland, has purchased the 281-acre Janelia Technology Park in Loudoun County, Virginia. The park is located just outside of Leesburg, not far from Dulles Airport. The purchase price was \$53.7 million.

"The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is extremely pleased to have found such an ideal site for its new campus," said Thomas R. Cech, president of HHMI, in announcing the purchase. "Janelia Farm's location near the venerable city of Leesburg in prosperous and growing Loudoun County, together with its close proximity to Dulles Airport, will make the center a highly desirable place to work."

The Institute is in a detailed planning phase for the activities that will be conducted at the Virginia location. An announcement of its plans for the new facilities will be made early in 2001.

A medical research organization, HHMI's principal program is the direct conduct of biomedical research. The Institute's 350 biomedical researchers and their staffs work in laboratories at more than 70 universities, medical centers, and other research organizations throughout the United States.

The Institute is also the largest private supporter of science education in the United States. Through its grants program, it supports hundreds of students pursuing advanced education and training in biomedical and related scientific fields. In addition, the Institute has made awards for the past ten years to colleges and universities across the United States to help them improve the way science is taught.

HHMI also supports the research of biomedical scientists in many areas of the world outside of the United States, including Canada, Mexico, South America, Russia, Central Europe, Africa, Australia, and others.

HHMI, with an endowment of approximately \$13 billion, is among the largest philanthropic organizations in the world. Its budget for the current fiscal year is \$667 million.