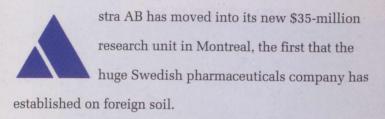
A STRENT NEWS

completes first phase of \$300 million research complex in Montreal



The new facility represents the first phase in a scheduled ten-year development of the \$300-million Astra Research Centre Montreal (ARCM) research complex.

ARCM, which has been operating in rented quarters since 1994, is spearheading Astra's quest for a new, post-morphine generation of non-addictive pain-killers with fewer side effects than earlier medications.

Located on a 47,000 square metre site, the research unit houses chemistry, pharmacology and molecular biology laboratories along with a library and other support services. The centre currently employs 50 researchers and Astra

expects the total to grow to 150 in the next few years.

Equipped with advanced research tools in all three areas of

its interest, the Centre also has the technology it needs to

integrate ARCM programmes into Astra's multi-nation

research effort. For example, each scientist at the Centre will

have individual access to the

company-wide "Intranet"

which allows scientific teams

to cooperate on projects

across continents and different time zones.

Before selecting Montreal, Astra considered several other

locations for its first extra-territorial research centre,

including Boston and sites on the U.S. west coast. Per From, Executive Vice-President of ARCM, says the company's

choice was influenced in part by generous R&D tax incentives

offered by the Governments of Canada and Quebec.

Another positive factor was access to a skilled workforce and the opportunity to collaborate with four local

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universities, including institutions with special strength in neuroscience and the study of pain mechanisms. Astra is

already benefiting from this
advantage: several senior
researchers at ARCM are also
professors at McGill University
and Université de Montréal. •





