

Deals & Deeds

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Ossining biotech to acquire Harrison building

An expanding biotech company in Ossining expects to relocate to a Platinum Mile office building in Harrison vacated more than a year ago by its sole tenant.

Histogenetics Inc., which performs DNA tissue-typing services for hospitals and blood stem-cell transplant centers worldwide, has signed a purchase contract for 104 Corporate Park Drive, a five-story, 118,000-square-foot building on the market since 2009. It was last occupied as headquarters of Malcolm Pirnie Inc., the environmental consulting firm that downsized and relocated to Westchester One at 44 S. Broadway in downtown White Plains.

The former property owner, an affiliate of AVR Realty in Yonkers, shed an approximately \$7.6-million debt last year when it turned over the deed to mortgage lender Genworth Financial Inc., a Fortune 500 insurance company in Richmond, Va.

The move would be a significant expansion for Histogenetics, which currently leases about 30,000 square feet of space at 300 Executive Blvd. in Ossining.

The biotech company's chairman and founder, Soo Young Yang, in a phone interview with the Business Journal confirmed the pending deal. She said the company plans to occupy the entire building and expects to increase its current workforce of about 70 employees.

Yang, who developed a proprietary tissue-typing process with Dr. Nezh Cereb, co-founder and president of Histogenetics, said substantial work will be needed to convert the Harrison building to specialized office and research space.

William Cuddy, executive vice president at the Stamford, Conn., office of CB Richard Ellis, represents the building owner, a Genworth affiliate. Michael Rao, president of New York Commercial Realty Group in White Plains represents Histogenetics. Both brokers declined to comment on the pending sale.

Westchester County Economic Development Director Laurence Gottlieb said his office had not yet been contacted by Histogenetics about the planned move and expansion.