

## A Win-Win Deal

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What **Yale University President Richard C. Levin** correctly termed a "once in a century opportunity" goes beyond welcome news for southern Connecticut.

The "opportunity" of which Levin spoke is Yale's planned purchase of the entire 137-acre Bayer HealthCare biotech research campus, situated along Interstate 95 in West Haven and Orange.

Political and economic development officials feared what would happen to the sprawling research campus once Bayer HealthCare departs in early 2008 as it merges with another German pharmaceutical firm and consolidates its American operations.

At its peak, Bayer employed some 2,500 people, including hundreds of research

scientists. Yale officials, in announcing the purchase deal, said the university could eventually employ just as many at the site. That's terrific economic news.

Perhaps more important, Yale will almost exclusively utilize the entire site — 1.5 million square feet situated in 17 buildings — for biomedical research, advancing Yale's scientific research program ahead by 10 to 15 years.

This is a key point because it is research universities that also drive expansion of the private biotech industry, spawning more companies and more jobs.

As Levin remarked, it is indeed a "once in a century opportunity", not only for Yale but also for this region and its continued economic livelihood.