

BUSINESS

Market Snapshot

▲ DOW JONES	17,817.90	+7.84	+0.04%
▲ NASDAQ	4,754.89	+41.92	+0.89%
▲ S&P 500	2,069.41	+5.91	+0.29%
▲ RUSSELL 2000	1,186.94	+14.52	+1.24%

Today's market data / D6

Most stocks of local interest close slightly lower Page D6

Pfizer lab conversion plan moves forward

Four firms will help transform Groton facility to a biotech incubator

By LEE HOWARD
Day Staff Writer

Groton — The statewide organization chosen to lead the conversion of a 24,000-square-foot building on the Pfizer Inc. campus

here into a biotech incubator announced Monday a team of four key companies that will accomplish the job.

Connecticut United for Research Excellence said the extensive renovations at Building 286 will be built out by three in-state firms, Fortunato Construction Group of Kensington, TLB Architecture of Chester, ASG Consulting Architects of Lyme, as well as the engineer-

ing group Hallam-ICS of Taunton, Mass.

The four firms will collaborate on creating the CURE Innovation Commons bioscience incubator space, which is expected to house promising entrepreneurial companies in a variety of fields, ranging from chemistry and pharmacology to biomedical engineering and information technology, along with others.

"The collaboration exhibited by

our distinguished build team has infused The Commons with a high level of energy as we enter into the design and construction phase," Susan Froschauer, CURE's chief executive, said in a statement. "I'm pleased to say we are in expert company, fully committed and moving swiftly to deliver The Commons to the bioscience community."

CURE had originally been eyeing Building 118, Pfizer's massive for-

mer research headquarters, for its proposed incubator, Froschauer said last week during a celebration of The Commons project at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London. But Pfizer eventually decided to knock down the building, saving about \$2 million a year in taxes, while donating Building 286, another former lab space, to CURE.

SEE COMPANIES PAGE D6

Companies picked to renovate Pfizer lab to biotech incubator

FROM D5

In February, the State Bond Commission gave its approval to spending \$4.2 million on renovations and startup costs for The Commons. The grant went to CURE Innovations LLC, a subsidiary of the statewide bioscience network CURE.

The CURE Innovation Commons, expected to be fully up and running by the middle of next year, is looking for a handful of individual entrepreneurs, start-ups and growing companies to inhabit the space. Companies from out of state as well as those operating in Connecticut are being invited to apply.

event areas," according to a press release. "Resident companies will have access to investors, industry-specific mentors and experts with on-site office hours as well as back-office support and educational programming."

Those interested in The Commons, including companies looking into sponsorship opportunities, should contact the incubator's manager, Kim Kelly, at kkelly@cureconnect.org. To find out more, the website curecommons.org includes photos of the facilities as well as renderings, information about incubator services and application details.

lhoward@theday.com