



Longmont, Colorado  
Monday, January 10, 2011

Publish Date: 11/18/2010

## Roche selling Boulder site, to ID buyer next year

*By Tony Kindelspire*  
© 2010 Longmont Times-Call

Basel, Switzerland-based drugmaker Roche on Wednesday announced an “Operational Excellence Program” that has it taking steps worldwide to save money and improve operations. One of those steps will be to sell off its Boulder manufacturing site, which employs about 280 people.

Roche said the plan, which will be implemented over the next two years, will trim about 4,800 jobs worldwide, or about 6 percent of the company’s global work force of about 82,000. The company said the moves will save about \$1.8 billion next year and about \$2.4 billion annually after 2012.

The Boulder site, at 2075 N. 55th St., dates back to 1946, when it was founded as Arapahoe Chemical. Syntex Corp. bought it in 1965 and Roche bought it in 1994.

The company said it expects to identify a buyer for the site by early next year and complete the sale by the first half of next year.

John Tayer, a spokesman for the company’s Boulder site, said he doesn’t anticipate any staff changes as a result of Wednesday’s announcement. Also, he said he anticipates there will be “supply agreements” signed between the company that buys the Boulder facility and Roche.

The Boulder site produces the active pharmaceutical ingredients that go into a variety of products, including AIDS drugs, Tayer said. The site has long produced peptides, which are polymers formed by linking amino acids in a certain order.

“We’re looking forward to having a continuing relationship with Roche,” Tayer said. “This is an opportunity for the site to build on its peptide experience.”

While the company is cutting about 4,800 jobs worldwide the biggest impact will be in the United States. Most of the job cuts will be in the U.S. and most will come in the company’s pharmaceutical division, especially in sales and marketing and manufacturing.

Some 3,500 jobs in the U.S. are being cut or moved elsewhere. Aside from Boulder, sites in Florence, S.C.; Nutley, N.J.; Madison, Wis.; and Vacaville, South San Francisco and Oceanside in California are being affected, the company said.

In a statement announcing the Operational Excellence Program, CEO Severin Schwan said the changes were necessary because of increased price pressures and a more challenging health-care market environment, and that they were necessary to “ensure sustained success of the company.”

Roche reported a 7 percent year-on-year drop in third-quarter sales last month to about \$11.5 billion.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

Tony Kindelspire can be reached at 303-684-5291 or [tkindelspire@times-call.com](mailto:tkindelspire@times-call.com).