



## Composite business set to come to Newton

By Ashley Bergner

**Newton Kansan**

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NEWTON —

The research organization CiBOR is pushing the edges of the medical frontier, bringing aerospace technology to the The National Center of Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopaedic Research, or CiBOR, is based out of Wichita and manufacture medical devices using composites, the same material used to build aircraft. These devices could include bone graft substitute and hip, knee and spine prostheses.

“CiBORS’ revolutionary application of aerospace composite materials to medical device applications promises to drive the business opportunities available to the Kansas composites community and greatly improve the quality of care provided to their patients,” Rich Sullivan, CiBOR CEO, wrote in a statement.

The Harvey County Economic Development Council now has a contract with CiBOR, creating a strategic partnership to look at the opportunity to bring potential new jobs and new investment to Newton County, said Mickey Fornaro-Dean, executive director of the Economic Development Council.

At a joint county/city meeting Monday morning, the Board of Harvey County Commissioners and the Newton City Council expressed their support for this partnership.

“I think it’s an important piece of our continued progress and economic development growth,” said Newton commissioner Thiesen.

“I’m looking forward to moving forward with all of this,” county commissioner Marge Roberson agreed.

The city and county will contribute funding to the project.

Thiesen said she is proud of the relationship the city has with Harvey County and the Harvey County Economic Development Council, and the way the groups have worked together to move the CiBOR project forward.

“We’re in this together,” she said. “... We are serious about economic development. We are looking at being proactive and reactive.”

Although pursuing economic development is not without its challenges, communities that want to grow sometimes take informed risks, Thiesen said.

“If we aren’t exploring opportunities like this, some other community will,” she said.

Look for more information about CiBOR on the business page of Saturday’s Kansan.

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