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Brazilian medical firm picks city for R&D office

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The Brazilian medical device firm Scitech Produtos Medicos will open a Cleveland research and development office in June, the company announced Thursday at the Global Healthcare Investing Conference.

The office is in partnership with Case Western Reserve University.

It will initially include a staff of six and expand to 18 by 2010, company founder Melchiades da Cunha Neto said.

Scitech made the announcement during a presentation to investors. The company is based in the Brazilian city of Goias.

It has raised \$4 million so far from the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology and hopes to raise another \$20 million to further its research. Its presentation at the conference was its first effort in raising those funds.

Scitech makes cardiovascular products. The research and development facility will work on a medical extrusion, or tubing, line as well as cardiology devices, da Cunha Neto said.

The company has an office in Chile, is opening another in Mexico and has a purchasing office in Miami.

Da Cunha Neto said Cleveland beat out Miami and Minneapolis for the research facility in part because of the strength of the region's polymer research and medical resources.

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