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Town receives funding to complete \$12.9-million wastewater project

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Work crews lower the first piece of the new Framingham wastewater pumping station into the ground on Oct. 27. (Courtesy: Massachusetts Life Sciences Center)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

A \$7.7-million grant was approved Wednesday to upgrade the town's wastewater collection system that serves Framingham's Technology Park.

The funding from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center will go towards the project's second phase and follows the center's approval in Nov. 2008, of \$5.2 million for the project's first phase, which was completed in September.

The \$12.9-million wastewater system project will allow for the expansion of the Genzyme Corporation's Framingham location on New York Avenue. Genzyme, a Cambridge-based biotechnology company, is projected to create more than 300 new biomanufacturing jobs as a result of its expansion, said a press release from the center announcing their approval of the grant.

The bio-tech company also estimates that their expansion will create 125 full-time construction jobs and town officials forecast that the wastewater project will create 40 construction jobs, said the release.

Genzyme has hired over 100 people associated with the start-up of their new manufacturing facility, Genzyme's Vice President of Facility Operations Henry Fitzgerald said in the release.

The wastewater project is designed to improve Framingham's overall water and sewer systems, and to benefit other area employers as well.

State Senator Karen Spilka said the project reinforces Framingham's economic importance.

"With this grant investment, Framingham will enjoy the dual benefit of saving money while bringing good, high-paying jobs into the area," she said in the release. "It will also benefit the MetroWest region as a whole as we continue to

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The project's first phased included the replacement of a wastewater pump station along with ancillary pipe work. The project has been planned to align with Genzyme's proposed schedule for bringing new manufacturing processes on-line, the release said.

"This is the sort of targeted investment we must continue making even during challenging economic times, as we work to foster economic growth in Massachusetts," said Governor Deval Patrick in the release.

Framingham Town Manager Julian Suso said in the release that the project "will further serve as the lynch-pin for similar job-creating business expansions in the Technology Park area to the benefit of all."

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center is a quasi-public, state agency tasked with implementing the Massachusetts Life Sciences Act, a 10-year, \$1 billion initiative that signed into law in June 2008. The center's mission is to create jobs in the life sciences and support scientific research that will improve the human condition.

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