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Vertex to move to South Boston

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Vertex Pharmaceuticals has confirmed it plans to move to Fan Pier on the South Boston waterfront. A company spokesman said it is still early in the process and that Vertex has signed a non-binding letter of intent, a step before signing a lease. Vertex said it had not yet negotiated the price of the lease. The site would be two adjacent buildings, a big change from the 10 scattered buildings the company now occupies near Central Square in Cambridge.

"It has to do with growth...the model in Cambridge is not sustainable," Vertex spokesman **Zach Barber** said. Barber said the company's goal for the past few years has been to get all of the employees together at the same site, and that Vertex has hired a couple hundred employees in the past couple of years.

The two buildings on Fan Pier total more than 1 million square feet. The earliest the company would move in would be late 2013 or early 2014.

The planned move comes at a time when Vertex is potentially on the cusp of becoming a profitable, commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company, like its peers [Biogen Idec](#) and [Genzyme Corp.](#) Vertex is awaiting an FDA approval decision on its drug candidate to treat hepatitis C, which Vertex announced last week is expected in May.

The news is a major coup for Boston Mayor **Tom Menino**, who has been seeking a major technology company to anchor his "Innovation District".