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## Agency set to buy 155 acres at airport

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■ The Berks County Industrial Development Authority has announced it expects to settle by July 1 on buying 155 acres from the Reading Regional Airport Authority to build a research/commercial park.

"We will give a check for \$2.6 million to become official owners of the site," BCIDA Executive Director Thomas C. McKeon said Monday.

He noted that agency attorneys are working hard to close the deal in two weeks.

McKeon said the park along Route 183 will focus on the food and agricultural industries that Berks excels in. "Making advances in the 'Farm to fuel and farm to fork' processes may be a simple, useful concept to explain future research there," McKeon said.

After buying the land, the authority's next step, he said, "will be additional target marketing studies to make sure we have the markets pegged for research and flex space," which could involve a range of businesses, such as small manufacturing and service operations.

"We want to be as good as we can be in what kind of buildings and square footage to construct," he said.

He added, "We want to sit down with our neighbors, St. Joseph Medical Center, Penn State Berks, the airport and Bern Township to look into uses that could also benefit them."