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Old **Scripps** sites never die. They just become a busy hub of activity for growing South Florida companies.

We're talking about the **Florida Research Park** on the Beeline Highway west of Palm Beach Gardens. Once a contender for **The Scripps Research Institute**, the 1,230-acre park lost the bid for Scripps, which picked Jupiter's **Abacoa** for its Palm Beach County headquarters.

No matter. The Florida Research Park subsequently refocused its energies on developing the property into a business and industrial park.

It immediately commenced construction on three speculative industrial buildings totaling 180,000 square feet. The buildings, for sale or lease, have caught the eye of several prospective tenants.

"Corporate America is still active," said **Dirk Kuczurba**, head of development for the park.

Florida Research Park has also sold several plots of land to companies wishing to build their own space for offices, warehouses or

light manufacturing. New buildings are up by **CV Technology**, which develops technology used to mitigate explosions during manufacturing; and by **Graflex**, maker of lenses for military uses.

Under construction are buildings by **Oceanside Masonry** and **BG Products**, a car parts distributor.

And more buildings are planned by the following companies: **Alloy Cladding**, **PCS Construction**, **Backyard Depot**, **Fowler's Sheet Metal** and **Tropichem Research Labs**, from Riviera Beach.

Then there's Florida Research Park's new neighbor, **First Industrial Realty Trust**. The Chicago-based industrial heavyweight bought 535 acres from the park this year. First Industrial renamed its land **First Park** and has started work on constructing new spec industrial buildings, too.

The company plans three warehouse buildings: One of 160,000 square feet and two of 40,000 square feet, said **Jeremy Shapiro**, Coral Gables-based senior regional director of First Industrial. The company expects to break ground on the buildings in the spring, with a completion date set for the first quarter of 2009.