French connection: Water Council building targets international companies

The Water Council’s International Water Technology Accelerator building in Milwaukee's 5th Ward neighborhood has developed a bit of a French connection.

With the help of French trade commission UBIFRANCE in Chicago, Water Council officials have secured a lease with one French company and are in talks with two others, said Dean Amhaus, president and CEO of the Milwaukee-based group working to make the region a global water research and business hub.

“We’re starting to get French interests,” Amhaus said. “A lot of companies are looking at Milwaukee as their place to come into the United States.”

The confirmed French tenant is Envolus Inc., the newly formed U.S. subsidiary of Envolure, based in Montpellier, France. Envolure has developed a technology that rapidly analyzes wastewater and organic waste.

Envolus will have one staffer in the Accelerator building, the company’s first U.S. location, Amhaus said.

The 98,000-square-foot, seven-story Accelerator building at 223 W. Pittsburgh Ave. is more than 75 percent leased, Amhaus said. It is under renovation and is slated to open this summer.

There are more than 17 organizations who have signed leases, Amhaus said.

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