

## Edmond hospital due in 2010

By Jim Killackey  
Staff Writers

EDMOND — A hospital planned by Integris Health on land now owned by Henderson Hills Baptist Church and a private individual eventually could have 100 beds and should have an initial economic impact of \$140 million, officials said Monday.

The acute-care hospital will cost \$40 million to \$60 million. No name has been chosen for the hospital.

Integris plans to buy 24½ acres from Henderson Hills and another 20 contiguous acres — all north of the Edmond church at Interstate 35 and 15th Street.

At first, Integris plans to build a 30- to 60-bed hospital opening by 2010. Construction will start in late 2008; it will take a year and a half to complete, officials said.

But Stanley Hupfeld, president and chief executive officer of Integris Health, said Monday that within 10 years, he could envision the full-service Edmond hospital with as many as 100 beds. He cited Edmond's "dynamic economic base" that will only improve over time.

The hospital will have room to expand, he said.

About the deal  
Integris would pay \$5.33 million for the land.

The deal is contingent upon a vote by the church congregation scheduled this weekend.

"The decision to accept this offer is now in the hands of the congregation, and I have every reason to believe they are going to make a good decision," said Dennis Newkirk, senior pastor at Henderson Hills.

"We've been told of how Integris Health has for years been good neighbors in their communities. They have done this by helping the poor, strengthening education and improving the cities in which they are located," Newkirk said.

Mayor Dan O'Neil said the economic impact to Edmond when the hospital opens should be \$140 million.

The financial impact includes construction costs, number of jobs, average employees' salaries and expected patients.

Partnership possible

O'Neil said Monday the Edmond community is excited at the prospect of an additional hospital.

"This will add several hundred thousand square feet of development and several hundred new jobs. This is a benefit to our community in meeting our health care needs," O'Neil said.

The hospital is scheduled to have a birthing center, emergency room, intensive care unit, surgery suites and doctors' offices.

Newkirk and Hupfeld expressed a desire for the hospital to partner with Henderson Hills' free "Ministry of Jesus" health clinic, which will move to the church's campus next year.

Kim Swyden, Henderson Hills' executive pastor, said construction on the clinic will start in February.

Newkirk said the clinic provides free care to those in the community who need it, but they could benefit from medical oversight by hospital-based physicians and nurses. The clinic also would refer emergency cases or those needing further medical tests to Integris medical staff.

"As we have dreamed about the use of our undeveloped lands, we have always talked about leaving that to God's vision. But certainly, a hospital always was near the top of the list," Swyden said. "Others have approached us about selling a portion of our land and we have not opened the door to discussion, but this discussion with Integris seemed right."

The 508-bed Integris Baptist Medical Center is in Oklahoma City