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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **RJ Lee Group Selects Centre County for Business Expansion**

*Pittsburgh-based company plans to offer cost-effective, rapid turnaround analytical laboratory services, and develop and commercialize new technology locally*

**State College, PA, Aug. 18, 2018** – After signing a research and development Memorandum of Understanding with Penn State University and inking a long-term lease for space at Innovation Park, RJ Lee Group, Inc. highlighted plans to grow commercially in Centre County. The company hopes to become an integral part of the local economy.

“For years, RJ Lee Group has utilized Penn State labs, equipment and other resources to help solve our customers’ problems. Recently, we made the decision to increase our presence in State College and Centre County as we look to team with local industry, as well as with Penn State, to commercialize new technologies developed at the university,” said Dr. Richard Lee, Founder and President of RJ Lee Group, an analytical laboratory and scientific consulting firm. “This decision was driven primarily because of the university’s vast research expertise, state-of-the-art facilities and access to talent. Opening a new facility here in Innovation Park will allow RJ Lee Group to expand and strengthen our collaborations with Penn State and the Centre County region.”

Initially, RJ Lee Group will conduct lab work for its customers, including UK-based Morgan Advanced Materials, at its Carbon Science Center of Excellence, which will also be housed at 310 Innovation Park. RJ Lee Group plans to hire 10 full-time scientists and technicians – a mix of local hires and employees relocated from the corporate office – who will work out of the Innovation Park facility once building construction is completed.

“We see numerous opportunities for increased collaboration in materials, transportation, life sciences, agriculture, energy, and advanced additive manufacturing,” Lee said.

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Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County President and CEO Vern Squier, CCE, PaCCE, said there is excitement about the near-term and future economic impact potential of RJ Lee Group's decision to locate in the county.

"Working with RJ Lee Group on matters related to engagement with the local community has been a distinct component of this recruitment project, as the company sees its investment extending beyond the lease agreement and initial jobs that will be created." Squier said.

Lee said the company wants to engage with the community, contributing to the local economy in myriad ways and focusing on partnership opportunities as it grows its analytical operations here.

"We want to engage with industry in the region, particularly start-up and growing businesses – companies that want to partner in a commercialization arrangement in order to bring their new technologies to the marketplace," Lee stated.

Squier said the CBICC will help to connect RJ Lee Group with local businesses, and is prepared to assist the company with its future growth needs. The company plans to develop its own new technologies, which could potentially lead to new facilities and additional job creation in the county.

"RJ Lee Group has a long history of developing and commercializing technology, including the first automated scanning electron microscope and the standardized test kit for gunpowder residue detection," state David Crawford, Vice President, Government Services, RJ Lee Group. "Looking ahead, we are developing technologies such as ISETS, a bomb threat detection technology, and SEAMS, a big data integration technology developed under DoD funding. We anticipate creating 25-30 additional jobs over the next three years as we commercialize these and related products and software."

Squier said the community component is an essential part of the recruitment process, whether projects emanate from the university or through the CBICC's direct activity.

"As the single point of contact for the collective community as outlined in the economic development Memorandum of Agreement signed with Penn State, the CBICC, working with its Centre County Economic Development Partnership stakeholders, is equipped to help companies on a variety of fronts," he said. "In this case, we are helping RJ Lee Group foster relationships with local corporate partners in a mutually beneficial way. We are proud to support this project, and look forward to a positive working relationship with RJ Lee Group now and in the future."

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