

Exclusive: Houston-area drug- and explosive-detection firm to double office footprint

Dec 10, 2019, 7:47am CST

Stafford-based DetectaChem Inc., which develops handheld drug- and explosive-detection technology, will more than double its office footprint next year to accommodate growth.

DetectaChem currently occupies 11,000 square feet of office and warehouse space at 4100 Greenbriar Drive in Stafford. In March 2020, the firm will move into a standalone, 25,000-square-foot facility at 120 Industrial Blvd. in Sugar Land. Travis Kisner, COO of DetectaChem, told the Houston Business Journal that the firm anticipates moving its 30 employees into the new office around March 2.

Kisner said that DetectaChem sought a larger office space to accommodate its recent growth. He said that the firm's revenue has doubled year over year for the past two years, though he declined to disclose DetectaChem's 2018 revenue.

"We're running out of room, so [expanding the footprint is] kind of a necessity. But with that necessity, we're going to be able to lay things out so we can operate more efficiently," Kisner said.

DetectaChem's new building will be around 50 percent office space and 50 percent industrial warehousing. Using a team of robots and workers, the company manufactures its hardware and chemicals on-site — and an expanded industrial space in the new building will allow for a larger, more open manufacturing floor, Kisner said.

The owners of DetectaChem will own the company's new building, Kisner said. Houston-based Robert Dame Designs served as the architect for the facility's build-out. DetectaChem is still in the process of selecting a general contractor for the project.

Kisner said that DetectaChem aims to hire around five to 10 employees over the next year, primarily in marketing, business management and sales roles.

DetectaChem develops and manufactures a handheld explosive-detection device — one of which is deployed on every U.S. Navy warship, Kisner said. The firm also develops field drug test kits powered by a smartphone app. The MobileDetect kit is able to test for traces of narcotics, including fentanyl. As of late October, the kit is able to differentiate between THC — the psychoactive chemical found in cannabis — and CBD, the hemp byproduct that is legal in many states, including Texas. The company's clients include the U.S. military, law enforcement and first responders across the globe.

DetectaChem was founded in 2005.



Travis Kisner, COO of DetectaChem
(photo courtesy of DetectaChem)



Chris Mathews

Reporter

Houston Business Journal