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Mtl. studio expansion

MONTREAL: Moli-Flex White Group and other shareholders have announced plans to invest \$25.5 million in Cine Cite Montreal, a multi-studio soundstage complex located 15 minutes from downtown Montreal on the former Saint-Hubert military air base.

Cine Cite Montreal will house five production studios totaling 61,500 square feet, including two 15,000 square-foot soundproofed studios, camera and equipment rental facilities, various craft services, and a helicopter leasing service.

The managing partner, Moli-

Flex White Group S.E.C., is headed by chairman Paul Bronfman, vp Emmanuel Lepine, vp and GM Martin Fontaine and vp marketing and development Benoit Hogue.

Moli-Flex White Group is the result of a merger between Moli-Flex White, the long-established Quebec service partnership between Bronfman's William F. White and Lepine's Moli-Flex, and Studio Cine Cite, which owned the land in St-Hubert and was a partnership between Fontaine and

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Montreal businessman George Durst. Durst was bought out by the new partnership group last month.

Moli-Flex White Group is investing \$7.5 million in the expansion. SODEC has guaranteed a \$4-million loan from Fonds pour l'accroissement de l'investissement prive et la relance de l'emploi while Societe Generale du Financement du Quebec is putting up an additional \$5 million, giving SFC a 40% share

in the studio complex. SODEC is also covering interest payments for up to \$12 million in capitalization from the National Bank of Canada.

According to the promoters, Quebec currently has 10% of the available studio space in Canada (94,500 square feet), with up to 85% almost equally split between Ontario and B.C.

Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry says Cine Cite Montreal could facilitate up to \$75 million a year in new foreign production in the Montreal region.

The completion date for the expansion is Labour Day.