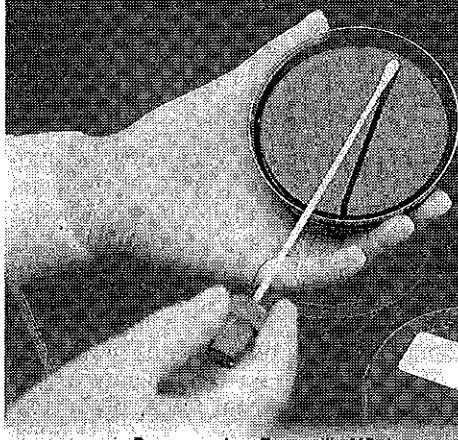


Biotech highlights



- **Mar. 26** Bayer acquires Emeryville MS drug manufacturing facility from Novartis in \$200 million deal
- **April 10** FDA approves Abbott Diabetes Care's blood glucose monitor
- **April 19** Cardima shares sink on FDA non-approval of new heart surgery device
- **June 21** Advanced Cell Technology says it made stem cell line without destroying embryo
- **Aug. 29** PDL BioPharma CEO says he'll resign after major shareholder calls for his dismissal
- **Nov. 30** FDA approves Thoratec heart device weeks after company recalls two other products
- **Dec. 17** PDL BioPharma sells cancer drug rights for \$200 million

Blackstone-EOP properties sell big

BY JESSICA SAUNDERS
EAST BAY BUSINESS TIMES

The largest leveraged buyout to date, Blackstone Group's \$39 billion takeover of Equity Office Properties Trust, resulted in record sales of prime East Bay office buildings in 2007.

Within weeks of the February merger, Blackstone began selling off parts of the EOP portfolio, including properties in San Francisco and the East Bay. EOP's holdings in Alameda and Contra Costa counties included Class A high-rises along Interstate 680 in Concord, San Ramon and Pleasanton.

Buyers lined up as marketing began for One & Two Corporate Centre in Concord, The Plaza in San Ramon and Hacienda Terrace in Pleasanton, and the final sale prices flirted with \$100 million each.

Aslan Realty Partners III LLC grabbed the twin high-rises in Concord for a reported \$99 million, while Legacy Partners of Foster City snapped up The Plaza and Hacienda Terrace for what industry sources said were \$86 million and \$90 million, respectively.

Not only were the properties in prime locations along the Interstate 680 corridor, but they were all fully leased or near fully leased with well-financed tenants, said Jeff Weil, senior vice president with Colliers International in Walnut Creek. He credited EOP's aggressive but broker-

Mergers and acquisitions highlights

- **Feb. 7** Caritor to buy Boston's Keane Inc. for \$854 million
- **Feb. 7** Polycom buying SpectraLink for \$220 million
- **Mar. 5** Copart makes \$112.8 million offer for U.K. salvage company
- **Mar. 19** Xign to be bought by JPMorgan Chase
- **Mar. 23** Oplink to take major stake in OCP for about \$85 million
- **Mar. 23** Netgear to buy Infrant for \$60 million
- **May 22** Chevron to raise \$940 million through sale of Dynegy stake
- **June 4** Cholestech Corp. sold for \$326 million
- **July 9** Activant to buy Intuit business for \$100 million
- **July 23** Simpson Strong-Tie acquires Swan Secure Products for \$43.5 million
- **Oct. 26** Network Equipment to buy Quintum for \$41 million
- **Oct. 31** Clorox to buy Burt's Bees for \$925 million
- **Dec. 11** Lam Research to buy SEZ Group for \$568 million

6 Looking back

friendly marketing.

Investors paid near replacement costs despite low rates of return because they were betting office rents would rise substantially, Weil said. Some new owners have already raised asking rents, expecting vacancy rates to contract further.

Now, however, the flipped properties

compete with thousands of square feet of Class A sublease space given up by mortgage and financial companies, Weil said. Vacancies along I-680 from Walnut Creek to Concord rose 20 percent in December over the same period in 2006.

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