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**NORTHERN ILLINOIS PROTON CENTER OFFICIALS**  
**INSPECT 220 TON CYCLOTRON**  
**UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN GERMANY**  
*Equipment scheduled for delivery to West Chicago in spring*

COLOGNE, GERMANY-- Officials from Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center (NIPTRC) and Northern Illinois University (NIU) today visited the production facility of Varian/ACCEL to observe construction of the massive cyclotron being developed and built for the \$160 million NIPTRC facility in West Chicago, Illinois. The unit will be used to deliver state of the art proton beams to cancer patients during radiation therapy when the facility opens in 2010. NIPTRC's Executive Director Dr. John Lewis and NIU's Vice President of External Affairs Kathy Buettner toured the plant in Bergish Gladbach, Germany, just outside of Cologne. They were joined by other members of the NIPTRC project team including representatives from VOA, the architecture firm designing NIPTRC, and Pepper Construction. The group traveled to Europe to assess production timelines and have their very first look at the actual cyclotron unit that will be used at NIPTRC.

"We are delighted with the progress being made on the NIPTRC cyclotron and fully expect the unit will be delivered on time and budget to its home in West Chicago, Illinois, sometime in the spring of 2009," said Lewis.

Earlier in their trip to Europe, members of NIPTRC also met with experts in the radiation oncology field. The group visited the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Villeggen, Switzerland. PSI is similar to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, which is adjacent to NIPTRC, in that it is one of the world's leading user laboratories for the national and international scientific community. More importantly, it is Europe's leading center for proton therapy research. The institute has a Varian/ACCEL accelerator and gantry, similar to the one planned for NIPTRC, that is operational and currently treating patients with proton therapy. NIPTRC met with PSI's medical director, Dr. Eugen Hug.

"This is an important trip for everyone involved in this project because the cyclotron is the most critical piece of equipment needed in developing a proton therapy center," said Lewis. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with international leaders in the proton therapy field in order to bring the best treatment and research center to Chicagoland."

After touring PSI, representatives from NIPTRC traveled to Varian/ACCEL's headquarters in Germany. There they were joined by the entire project team to tour the facility and finalize integration of equipment and building construction.

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*page 2/ NIPTRC officials inspect cyclotron*

NIPTRC along with the Northern Illinois Research Foundation and Northern Illinois University have been working for years to bring a world-class cancer treatment and research center to Chicago's western suburbs that will provide state-of-the-art proton therapy to patients across the Midwest. Earlier in the year, the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board approved the project. The project will be the first of its kind in the upper Midwest and is expected to treat patients from hundreds of miles around the Chicago area. Physicians from Northwestern University's Medical Faculty Foundation will staff the treatment center which will be located in the DuPage National Technology Park, 30 miles west of downtown Chicago.

Proton therapy is a non-invasive and precise radiotherapy treatment, and is particularly useful for treating certain pediatric and adult cancers. Unlike conventional X-ray radiation therapy, proton radiation does not do significant damage to the healthy cells around a cancerous growth. Proton therapy is currently unavailable in Illinois, and only five proton therapy centers are currently operating nationwide.

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