

Surgical robot maker buys \$6M Durham building



A rendering of Intuitive Medical's new space at the Triangle Business Center in Durham.

C/O SCANNELL PROPERTIES



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Sunnyvale, California-based surgical robot maker [Intuitive Surgical](#) (Nasdaq: ISRG) has purchased a 60,000-square-foot building in the Triangle Business Center in Durham from [Scannell Properties](#) for just shy of \$6 million.

Intuitive – which makes the da Vinci Surgical System – already has an outpost at N.C. State University’s Centennial Campus – but its new digs will put it just a few miles down the road from another surgical robot maker, [TransEnterix](#) (NYSE MKT: TRXC), which is ready to breach the U.S. market. TransEnterix declined to comment on Intuitive’s building buy on Friday.

The da Vinci Surgical System was cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration back in 2000, while [TransEnterix just received clearance for its Senhance surgical robot Oct. 13.](#)

Indiana-based [Scannell Properties](#) has [stayed active in the Triangle market over the last several years](#), and of the Triangle Business Center, Managing Director Bill Linville says Scannell has made an approximately \$70 million capital investment. The project is currently home to companies such as LifeStar Pharma – which [recently bought a nearly 100,000-square-foot building at the complex from Scannell for \\$7.8 million](#) – as well as Peter Millar and [PowerSecure](#).

Linville says Intuitive will have the option to expand into a planned 45,000-square-foot building adjacent to its new space. There’s also a 200,000-square-foot spec building in development by Scannell at the center.

Intuitive reported net income of \$735.9 million in 2016, up from \$588.8 million the year prior.