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\$147m movie studio planned for S. Weymouth

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A California production company today launched plans to build a \$147 million motion picture studio on 30 acres at the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

Executives with International Studio Group said they intend to begin construction next spring on a 600,000-square-foot complex that will accommodate the production of movies, television shows, video games, and other programs.

The studio will be part of SouthField, a proposed mini-city on the shuttered air base that would include more than 2,800 housing units, a golf course, stores, and offices.

"We're thrilled to be able to make SouthField Studios-Boston a reality," said Allan Kassirer, a principal with International Studio. "Through aggressive tax incentives for film production, Massachusetts has certainly positioned itself to become a leader in film and television production."

Massachusetts offers a 25 percent tax credit on any spending by production companies, and ISG hopes those incentives will attract tenants to its studios.

Previously, ISG pushed for a bill that would have provided additional tax credits for the construction of movie studios. That legislation was blocked in the state Senate.

Nonetheless, ISG executives said they intend to break ground in November and will proceed with full-scale construction next spring. A spokesman said ISG's financial partner in the deal is LNR Property Corp., the master developer of the 1,000-plus-acre SouthField project.