

Colorado's bioscience industry boasts a strong infrastructure

Buildings that encompass a city would crumble without a strong foundation, and a great industry community requires the same sturdy infrastructure. The Colorado bioscience community has a strong infrastructure supporting it, but over the last year that foundation has become even stronger.

CLUSTER Colorado's research institutions have grown in capacity and have been able to sustain this growth through the support of new endeavours. The University of Colorado System, which spreads across the state in four campuses, produces an average of 10 new bioscience companies each year. This impressive number continues to grow. What makes the University of Colorado stand out is the innovative projects underway to support and assist this growth.

The Colorado initiative

The University of Colorado at Boulder has recently engaged in the creation of the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB). The CIMB project is led by former Howard Hughes Medical Institute President and Nobel Laureate Dr. Thomas Cech and it will modernise the way research is being conducted at the university today. The institute will take on an interdisciplinary approach while pursuing breakthroughs in genomics, proteomics, molecular and cellular imaging, biophysics, mathematical analysis, materials engineering and chemical synthesis.

While the CIMB will encourage discoveries and inventions to solve complex medical problems, it will also provide a focus on core research techniques. Combining these sciences in an interdisciplinary approach will allow and encourage collaborations between disciplines in both teaching and research. The project will work to show the full process from research to commercialisation by engaging both business and science majors to reach across the boundaries so students understand the science, entrepreneurialism and business aspects of the bioscience industry.

Colorado Science + Technology Park

Boulder isn't the only University of Colorado campus in the state to encompass a thriving bioscience industry. Aurora's Fitzsimons Life Science District is likely the most internationally recognised area in Colorado for bioscience research. The 570-acre campus includes a partnership between the Colorado

Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons, the Children's Hospital, the Veterans Affairs Hospital and the Anschutz Medical Campus, which includes the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center and University of Colorado Hospital. This is a breeding ground for innovation, allowing students, hospitals, research and business to interact productively.

Specific to bioscience, the Colorado Science + Technology Park is dedicated to the success of life-science companies within the state. The Park has two bioscience incubator buildings, which allow 30 bioscience start-up companies to house here and conduct research and business. The two buildings offer state of the art lab facilities, virtual office space locations, and a business development programme to ensure the success of their start-up companies.

Fort Collins' RIC & RMI2

Further, to the north of Denver, is Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, another hotbed of bioscience research and innovation. CSU is known globally for their research in veterinary medicine, but over the years they have become increasingly recognised for their overall research in the biosciences. On the west side of the campus is the CSU Foothills Campus, which is where much of this research is taking place.

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Over the last few years, the growth of the Foothills Campus is extensive and exciting. The 72,000 square-foot Research Innovation Center (RIC) is one addition attracting major attention. It will house both university research and serve as an incubator for assisting start-up companies. The centre bridges the gap between research and business, encouraging collaboration between the two.

The Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative (RMI2), also located in Fort Collins, offers another great opportunity for companies located



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in the Northern Colorado area. The RMI2 is a not-for-profit organisation providing start-up companies with incubator space, business advisors, marketing assistance, entrepreneurial resources, and collaboration opportunities. This will allow start-up companies spinning out of CSU Research to find business expertise and a cost-effective space for their company right in their own back yard.

CID4

The newest endeavour in Colorado is a statewide initiative entitled the Colorado Institute for Drug, Device and Diagnostic Development (CID4). The non-profit institute will work statewide and help bridge the gap between discovery and commercial market success for a bioscience company. The CID4 will provide early-stage life science technologies with an experienced management team to help create business plans, manage the product development process, and create funding strategies through to commercialisation. This collaboration includes partnerships between the University of Colorado System, Colorado State University and the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority.

Across the state of Colorado there is constant work and research being conducted in the bioscience industry. While Colorado's bioscience research and companies keep growing, building a strong foundation is essential, and for Colorado's bioscience community the foundation is definitely secure.

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