

Biotechnology and the Life Sciences: America's Hot High-Tech Industries

Biotechnology is the use of cellular and molecular processes to solve problems or make products.

More than 325 million people worldwide have already been helped by more than 130 biotech drugs and vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

70 percent of those products were FDA approved in just the last six years.

More than 350 new biotech products are currently in clinical trials targeting more than 200 diseases.

The U.S. biotechnology industry has tripled in size since 1992 to more than 1,400 biotech companies. Estimates indicate nearly 300 life science companies operate in Tennessee.

With more than 130 members statewide, the Tennessee Biotechnology Association is the recognized authority on the biotech industry in Tennessee.

Tennessee Is Home to Dynamic Life Science Resources

Each year, institutions in Tennessee receive approximately \$580 million in external funding for biotech-related research and development.

The Knoxville/Oak Ridge communities represent established and substantial research centers. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory, managed by Battelle and the University of Tennessee, along with the UT Medical Center and the U.T. Environmental Biotechnology Center are encouraging biotech development and commercialization.

Northeast Tennessee is the chosen location for such industry giants as Eastman Chemical, King Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline and several other private sector biotech leaders, as well as the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University.

Memphis is home to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and several medical research organizations, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Home to shipping powerhouse FedEx, Memphis offers a prime distribution advantage for biotech businesses, along with being a world-class health care and information technology center.

The Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce and Memphis BioWorks Foundation are fostering an environment favorable to the life science industry, and several biopharmaceutical and device companies are currently headquartered here, including Smith & Nephew, Medtronic Sofamor Danek and Wright Medical.

Biotechnology represents a strong growth segment in Nashville with support from renowned academic and research institutions, such as Vanderbilt University and Medical Center and Meharry Medical College, along with strong infrastructure support and a planned life sciences center for growing companies.

Nashville, also widely recognized as a health care services capital, has nurtured more than 220 health care service firms operating nationally and internationally. The Nashville Health Care Council actively promotes the link between health care services and advances in life science diagnostics and therapeutics.

With Tennessee's central location and superior transportation system, pharmaceutical companies like Schering-Plough, Bayer, Pfizer and Eli Lilly have chosen the state for product manufacturing and distribution centers.

Find out more – www.tnbio.org