

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap: Progress Report

October-December 2010

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, commissioned and coordinated by the Flinn Foundation, calls on the state to focus on four strategies to develop a globally competitive bioscience hub. Here are those strategies and how Arizona fared in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Build research infrastructure

- The University of Arizona's BIO5 Institute dedicates its new facility in Oro Valley, the new home of its Arizona Drug Discovery Center. The facility, formerly owned by Sanofi-Aventis, was purchased by UA for \$3 million in June.
- Gov. Jan Brewer announces an award of \$2.2 million to Science Foundation Arizona to support creation of an Arizona Biosignature Laboratory led by the Critical Path Institute and Oro Valley-based Ventana Medical Systems Inc. Also participating in the project are the Phoenix-based International Genomics Consortium and the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University.
- Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center announces the establishment of the Barrow Brain Tumor Research Center, which will team surgeons and scientists to use new tools and investigate new drugs to aid in treatment of brain-cancer patients.

Build critical mass of firms

- Ventana announces an expansion of its Oro Valley operations that should produce an addition of 500 jobs and \$180 million in capital investment over a five-year period.
- Mayo Clinic announces plans to build a \$182 million radiation-therapy facility on its Scottsdale campus. The new center will use protein-beam technology to improve cancer-treatment results with less damage to healthy tissue.
- Bonovo Orthopedics Inc., which develops orthopedic products for China's health-care market, closes a \$10 million financing round, led by OrbiMed Asia Partners.
- Tucson-based SynCardia Systems Inc., maker of the temporary Total Artificial Heart, receives a \$7.5 million NIH grant to optimize the design of cardiovascular devices.
- Scottsdale-based Matrixx Initiatives, maker of Zicam cold and flu products, is purchased by H.I.G. Capital LLC, a private-equity firm, for \$75.2 million.

Enhance business environment

- The federal government's Therapeutic Discovery Project awards \$9 million in federal tax credits and grants to 37 Arizona bioscience companies.
- Gov. Brewer awards \$1 million in federal stimulus funds to Northern Arizona University and the Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. NAU will use its funding to support entrepreneurial student projects and faculty studies in the biosciences and environmental management; NACET will use its funding to open a state-of-the-art laboratory open to the community.
- Gov. Brewer awards an additional \$1 million to ASU to establish Venture Catalyst at ASU, an initiative based at ASU SkySong intended to encourage the formation of startup firms, especially by university faculty and students.
- The Arizona Commerce Authority recommends that the Arizona Legislature create a \$25 million deal-closing fund to help encourage firms offering high-wage jobs to locate in Arizona.

Prepare workers, educate citizens

- Gov. Brewer allocates \$3.1 million to support SFAz's Graduate Research Fellowship program and expand the Engineering Pathways program at rural community colleges.
- The UA College of Medicine-Phoenix begins construction on the \$129 million Health Sciences Education Building on the downtown Phoenix Biomedical Campus. The facility will support the medical school's class size grow from 48 to 120 students per year.
- UA's Arizona Cancer Center receives a five-year, \$2.5 million renewal of its Cancer Prevention and Control Fellowship Program from the National Cancer Institute. The postdoctoral program, which annually funds four two-year fellowships, positions participants to be competitive for grant funding in cancer prevention and control.