

STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

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Ohio → Outpacing U.S. in Bioscience Growth

Land of giants such as Battelle and Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, Ohio also hosts up-and-coming firms. Some 1,000 companies in the areas of pharmaceutical and bioscience research and testing, as well as medical instruments, employ more than 36,000 people, according to Pat Valente, deputy director of the Ohio Department of Development, Division of Technology. A Battelle report found Ohio grew twice as fast as the nation in bioscience employment over the past six years, increasing employment by 264 percent and spawning 143 new firms. In the same time period, Ohio's pharmaceutical sector doubled in employment and increased by more than 80 percent in establishments.

Ohio's research centers include some of the top 20 teaching hospitals in the nation, including University Hospitals of Cleveland and three of the country's top 15 pediatric hospitals, located in the Cleveland and Columbus areas. These include the Children's Hospital Medical Center & Children's Hospital Research Foundation and the Case Western Reserve University Hospital. Ohio's academic research centers include Case Western Reserve University, the University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University, Ohio University, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Ohio's Technology Action Fund targets technology commercialization and early-stage capital. For 2003, the state legislature has allocated \$14.1 million for the Technology Action Fund to support efforts furthering the commercialization of near-term technology.

Omeris serves as Ohio's chief trade organization. It has placed itself at the forefront of the state's effort to turn life sciences into a major economic force, taking over central Ohio's life science initiative from the Technology Leadership Council. Omeris' mission is to attract state support as well as private capital investments for the life sciences. With four offices across the state, Omeris receives \$2 million from the state each year specifically for the life sciences.

To cope with tough economic times, Omeris has expanded its efforts to gain overseas resources, so far bringing two biotech companies to Cleveland from Israel. Omeris is currently working with Ohio State University to strengthen ties to Asia, since its campus has one of the highest percentages of Asian students in America.

Omeris has zeroed in on the state's longtime struggle to attract venture capital funds. It recently used state funds to launch four seed and pre-seed funds through the annual \$10-million to \$12-million Technology Action Fund.

Consulting groups such as BIO/START, Battelle Healthcare Products, Copernicus Therapeutics, and BioMax specialize in product commercialization and also help to grow companies throughout the state.

www.omeris.org

http://www.bioworld.com/archive/061503/insights_midwest.html

Ohio

- 1,000 life science companies
- 264% increase in life science jobs over the past six years
- \$1.6-billion Third Frontier initiative

The state's Third Frontier initiative is a 10-year, \$1.6-billion investment aimed to bring high-paying, high-tech jobs to Ohio. It includes \$350 million for the Biomedical Research and

Technology Transfer Fund, which will distribute \$25.5 million during 2003 and 2004.