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Life Sciences



Special thanks to the Ottawa Life Sciences Council and World Heart Corporation.



A Centre for Discovery.

Development and Commercialization

Ottawa's life sciences sector has seen significant growth over the last decade. In the last six years alone, the number of life sciences companies in the city has more than doubled. Up to 10 new firms enter the market each year.

Ottawa-based industry leaders include MDS Nordion, Igen, I-STAT, Adherex Technologies and WorldHeart. Emerging companies such as IatroQuest, Ionolytics, Coley Pharmaceuticals, Epocal, and Liponex are adding to Ottawa's impressive mix of life sciences talent. World-class research, skillful management, increased capital investment and a growing list of new companies has elevated Ottawa's life sciences community to the global stage of discovery, development and commercialization.

Spirited entrepreneurship and visionary research are the cornerstones of the capital's life sciences cluster. University, government and research institute laboratories are making impressive research breakthroughs in stem cells, functional



and environmental genomics, proteomics, cancer and stroke. Meanwhile, major investments in research infrastructure are supporting efforts in medical and bio-informatics, biophotonics, nanotechnologies, biochips, bioproducts and manufacturing.

A Dynamic Labour Force

Ottawa's industry, government and university research centres are a magnet for new talent. The city boasts the highest concentration of engineers and PhD's in Canada, and one of the best educated workforces on the continent. With 11,000 workers, Ottawa's life sciences cluster is the country's third largest.

Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, Algonquin College and La Cité collégiale are leading the way in developing new talent. The University of Ottawa's bio-pharmaceutical program — the largest of its kind in Canada — and La Cité collégiale's new program in applied biotechnology, are just two examples of the educational partnerships that are fueling the city's growing inventory of research and industry innovators.

An Exceptional R&D Environment

The region is home to some 20 research institutes and programs with diverse expertise across all technology fields. The National

Research Council (NRC), Canada's premier science and technology research organization, has three life sciences institutes in Ottawa and is a driving force behind many of the sector's major advances and commercialization success stories. With more than 800 employees, the Ottawa Health Research Institute is a world leader in medical research and is affiliated with the Ottawa Hospital — Canada's largest teaching hospital.

Ottawa universities and research institutes receive more than \$350 million annually in support of both pure and applied research. Recent investments in the city's research infrastructure include \$20 million for two new genomics centres in human health and the environment, \$70 million for a new stem cell research centre and network, and \$43 million for the Ottawa-based Canadian Stroke Network.

Ottawa's historical strength in telecommunications, software, and photonics combined with its world class research in life sciences, makes it a natural research partner. Our life sciences research community continues to build alliances and partnerships with the Ottawa research and industrial communities.

Dr. Richard Powell
Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ



A Supportive Business Infrastructure

New companies — whether they're starting up or relocating from elsewhere — enjoying the benefits of Ottawa's supportive business infrastructure. The Ottawa Life Sciences Council (OLSC) supports companies in the sector with networking forums, human resource and business development programs, conferences, investment attraction and marketing initiatives. The council also plays a critical role in building partnerships and research consortia involving private-sector companies, universities and government labs.

The Ottawa Biotechnology Incubation Centre (OBIC) fosters the growth of start-up companies with effective laboratory and office space, specialized facilities for health (Ottawa Life Sciences Technology Park) and agricultural (Greenbelt Research Farm) R&D. OBIC also offers a wide range of mentoring and business development support services.



Ottawa is also home to Canada's life sciences regulatory bodies. Having these agencies next door fosters better communications and faster action on intellectual property issues and regulatory approval processes.

The city's diverse professional services sector is another important element of Ottawa's business infrastructure. The city's long-established legal community has expertise in intellectual property and trans-border trade issues. Ottawa's strong corporate finance and venture capital communities provide access to a wealth of fiscal resources. And a strong supplier base stands at the ready with everything from lab equipment and reagents, to specialized processes and management services.

In addition to its thriving business climate, Ottawa's world-class facilities, strong transportation links and myriad of cultural and recreational attractions, make the region a much sought after destination for business conventions and trade shows.

The depth of the Ottawa labour market is of a high calibre. As a company which exports radioisotopes and radiation technology worldwide to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, MDS Nordion needs to draw from the diverse pool of engineers, scientists, and other professionals located in the region. Our proximity to two universities also allows us to recruit top talent. Being located in Ottawa is a definite advantage for our global life sciences business.

David McInnes
Vice-President Corporate
Communications, MDS Nordion

The wealth of medical research going on in Ottawa creates a great support network for biotech companies. We are pleased to have been able to tap into this support through organizations such as the National Research Council, Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre, Ottawa Health and Research Institute, and the University of Ottawa.

John Brooks
CEO, Adherex Technologies Inc.



European Flair

Charm and vibrancy. Superb museums, galleries and cultural attractions. Professional sports teams. An unending list of festivals and special events. A safe but spirited downtown core with a rich selection of nightclubs, restaurants and theatres. Quiet residential neighborhoods. Pristine lakes, beaches and campgrounds that are just minutes away from downtown. An expansive network of hiking and biking paths. Cross-country and downhill ski trails. The world's longest skating rink.

These winning attributes have helped to foster Ottawa's burgeoning life sciences industry, positioning Ottawa as one of Canada's fastest growing economies; one of the world's most progressive centres for innovation and excellence.

For more information on Ottawa's Life Sciences sector, please visit www.olsc.com, www.biojobs.ca OR www.ottawaregion.com.