

BIOCITY NEWS

www.biocity.co.uk



The Future Looks Bright . . .

Welcome to the Autumn edition of BioCity news. A lot has happened in the six months since the Spring newsletter, not least the ongoing success of companies at raising funding. Although its only four years since BioCity was launched and most of our companies are even younger than that, a number are getting to the make-or-break stage of either gaining further investment or shutting up shop. I'm pleased to say that so far all the shops remain fully open.

A consequence of this, and of the revenue generating successes of many companies, is that company growth is still racing ahead at a similar pace to last year, with most companies taking on more staff and more space at BioCity in the first six months of the year. As a result we find that the BioCity buildings are now at a 95% occupancy level; that's over 6,500 sq m of space.

Relief is at hand however, as our third phase of development is progressing well and this will provide space for those companies that are starting to feel pinched, which in turn will release labs for the next generation of businesses to come through.

Autumn also sees the long-awaited arrival of the NMR unit at BioCity. This represents another step in our strategy of continually adding facilities and services that make life easier for our companies or enable them to achieve new things. The NMR was purchased in response to a call from the companies and we hope to respond similarly to any future demands that surface. A technical staff member has been recruited to run the NMR facility and another key aspect of their role will be to act as a technical "hub", with the ability to connect companies at BioCity together if they have particular technical needs; anything from access to a Mass Spec. to an urgently needed drop of liquid nitrogen.

The mass of companies at BioCity continues to attract attention and the last six months have seen a good number of visits from investor groups, pharmaceutical companies and

overseas company delegations. Many businesses have grasped the opportunity to promote themselves to the visitors and, although it's very early, we are confident that some of these meetings will prove fruitful.

There has also been a great deal of bioscience sector activity outside of BioCity, most notably the recent opening of the brand new interdisciplinary Centre for Biomolecular Sciences at the University of Nottingham. This is a world-leading development and we are hopeful that some great spin out opportunities will emerge from the Centre.

So although we're heading into the period of dark mornings and evenings, there's a lot to look forward to and certainly a very bright light on the horizon for a lot of BioCity companies.

Glenn Crocker, Chief Executive



Glenn Crocker, Chief Executive, BioCity

Company News

Welcome

BioCity is delighted to have welcomed the following companies on board during the last few months: Archimedia, Haemostatix, Epitome, Good Products, WSP Environmental Laboratories, Design Cognition, New-Use Therapeutics, Geneseek (US), OXTox Ltd, Hybrigenics and QEDetal

R5 named "Best start up Company" in East Midlands

R5 Pharmaceuticals, the specialist drug development services company, was named "Best start up Company" at the Medilink East Midlands Innovation Day held in Nottingham.

www.r5pharma.com

(2006 BioCity start)



R5 develops and manufactures medicines to be used in clinical studies

Million-pound Investment into RegenTec

In July 2007 RegenTec announced the award of close to £1 million to translate their injectable tissue scaffolding technology into a versatile product for the repair of bone defects and fractures. The investment in this technology was secured on a competitive basis from the Wellcome Trust, the UK's largest medical research charity, under its Translation Award programme.

RegenTec has invented a unique material that works with stem cells and biopharmaceuticals to stimulate the regeneration of tissue in patients. When injected into the body the material is triggered to form a highly porous scaffold structure that encourages new tissues to form. The



A member of the RegenTec team at work

unique mechanism of scaffold formation additionally allows the technology to deliver stem cells and drugs without compromising their viability or activity. This generates huge opportunities in curing patients who have lost the function of key tissue of the body, including bones, liver, heart and nerves.

www.regentec.net

(2003 BioCity start)

£1m Help For Lifesaver For Unborn Babies

We mentioned in the Spring Newsletter that the Utrecht ethics Committee had approved clinical trials for the Monica AN24 fetal monitoring device developed by Monica Healthcare. These trials were successfully completed in August 2007 and as a result the device will soon receive CE-approval and will be placed on the market in Europe.

It was further announced in August that Monica Healthcare had secured investment of £1m from a syndicate of investors to enable the AN24 device to be taken to market along with the development of future products.

The AN24 device, developed by Monica from research at The University of Nottingham, measures the heartbeat of a fetus and identifies those which are in distress. Doctors currently rely on ultrasound but the new device developed by Monica Healthcare will give mothers independence as the heartbeat can be monitored away from the hospital. The product will sell for under £5,000 in a market thought to be worth up to £50m a year in the EU and USA. www.monicahealthcare.co.uk

(2005 BioCity start)



Monica Healthcare team

Investment Makes PED a Thoroughbred in Equine Circles

PED has pioneered innovative blood tests for the prevention and treatment of two serious diseases in horses; Cushing's syndrome, a condition with some similarities to human diabetes, and Laminitis, a common and extremely painful hoof condition. The new lab service by PED will provide veterinary practitioners with custom-built sample tracking and secure web access to integrated results.

PED has secured significant cash investment from the East Midlands Early Growth Fund, managed by E-Synergy Ltd and private investors. The investment comes after PED's success in the ANUBIS II technology business competition in which it won a £10,000 prize. www.pegasusdiagnostics.com

(2004 BioCity start)



New lab service by PED

Orthogem announces 510K clearance for Tripore synthetic bone graft

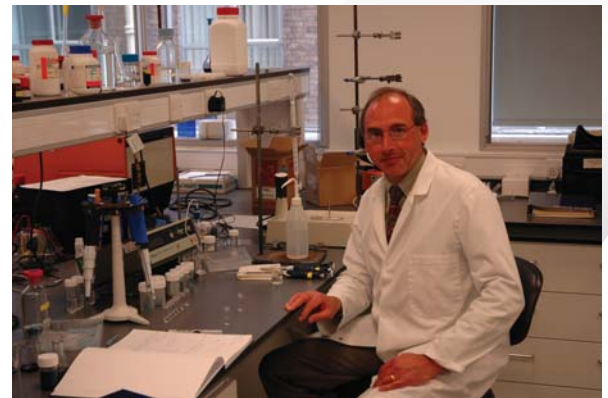
Orthogem, which specialises in the research and development of synthetic bone products, has been granted FDA clearance to sell its advanced synthetic bone graft Tripore in the US, following earlier success with European CE Mark registrations. Orthogem designed TriPore with a unique structure to provide the most favourable environment for osteogenic cells to form new bone. In meeting the design criteria, Orthogem developed and patented TriPore as a platform technology capable of being produced in many forms for specific clinical applications using a completely new and patented manufacturing process. Extensive pre-clinical studies show that TriPore outperforms traditional SBG's without the need for the added complexity of additional chemical or physical modification. www.orthogem.com

(2004 BioCity start)

Advanced Protein Systems (APS) progresses wound healing products

APS is developing a highly adaptable platform for the next generation of 'active healing' chronic wound care products. The platform is based upon patented chemical reformulation of the clinically approved protein, serum albumin and utilises many unique qualities to potentially provide a revolutionary family of wound dressing, haemostatic and drug delivery products. With additional funding and successful outcome of clinical trials APS hopes to license out its technology and see its first products marketed by 2009.

(2002 BioCity start)



Dr Roy Harris, Chief Scientific Officer/Director, APS

North 51 leading the way in Pharmaceutical Company e-learning

North 51 is celebrating having been awarded the contract to deliver an international, multi-lingual e-learning platform for a leading pharmaceutical company. In the five-way pitch North 51 were up against leading and established e-learning providers. The client feedback indicated their success was based on demonstrating the ability to clearly understand the requirements and provide a highly tailored solution.

Phil Randall, Joint Managing Director said "We are delighted because this was the first serious pitch we have entered with our new e-learning platform - LearnWith. The feedback from the client was really positive, even against industry leading products". www.north-51.com/ebusiness

(2004 BioCity start)

External News

Nottingham faculty in world top 30

The World University Rankings 2007 - compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) and established as one of Higher Education's principal international league tables - has again confirmed The University of Nottingham's status as one of the globe's leading institutions. Nottingham is rated a Top 10 University in the United Kingdom and one of Europe's Top 25 universities.

The University's performance in Clinical Academic Medicine and in Pharmacy is ranked especially highly. A new index by academic discipline ranks Nottingham's performance in these areas 28th in the world and in the Top 5 in Great Britain alongside Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College and University College London - and ahead of prestigious competitors such as Cornell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Berkeley and Brown Universities in the USA, and Bristol, Glasgow, Manchester and King's College London in the UK. This year The School of Pharmacy at The University of Nottingham received The Queen's Award for Enterprise in the category of Innovation, and launched fully accredited Masters degrees at the institution's thriving campus in Malaysia.

Nottingham is currently Britain's 'University of the Year' (Times Higher Education Awards 2006/7).

Bursaries aim to boost numbers of science and technology students

East Midlands Development Agency (emda) is injecting more than £600,000 into a bursary scheme to encourage more students to study science-based courses at university.

The bursaries are known as EMSTAs (East Midlands Science and Technology Awards) and will be available at the region's nine universities.

Up to 200 students will be eligible for £3,000 bursaries (£1,000 a year for three years) to enable them to study STEM courses (science, technology, engineering and maths).

If you are interested in applying for the 2008 Bursaries contact Aimhigher on 01509 222427 or for more information visit www.aimhigher-eastmidlands.ac.uk/emsta

Nottingham opens largest-ever research centre

A new chapter in global healthcare research has opened with the launch of the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences - a centre of excellence that will pool the world-leading expertise of 300 top scientists.

With £25m investment in state-of-the-art facilities, the Centre is The University of Nottingham's largest-ever research structure and one of the biggest, best-funded centres of its kind in the UK. More importantly, the Centre breaks down barriers between different types of scientists to create collaborative teams that can compete with the leading global healthcare centres of excellence.

The Centre for Biomolecular Sciences (CBS) brings together world-leading expertise across seven different scientific disciplines to tackle key health priorities for the UK in drug discovery, cancer research, stem cell science, bacteriology and regenerative medicine. It represents a flagship collaboration between researchers in seven of the University's schools: medicine, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, molecular biology and human development.

The Centre for Biomolecular Science is located on the east side of the University Park campus, adjacent to the Medical School. Its website is: www.nottingham.ac.uk/cbs

Life Source to Help Develop New Technologies

The blueprint of life- DNA- could be used to enhance technologies in electronics and information storage following innovative and cutting edge science at the University of Leicester.

Dr Glenn Burley has been awarded one of only 8 coveted Advanced Research Fellowships in Chemistry worth £922,000, given annually by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

The highly prestigious award will allow the Leicester researcher to use DNA, the molecule of inheritance, to help build tiny structures for use in technology processes and medicine.

BioCity News

Have You Got News For Us?

Integra Communications has recently been appointed to handle public relations (PR) and media communications for BioCity Nottingham.

Integra's director, Louise Third, began her career and built a national reputation in business start-up support and policy consultation. She moved into media relations in 1998 and handles PR for several leading national enterprise support organisations and entrepreneurs. Her mission is to increase the level of coverage of enterprise and small business affairs in the media by encouraging more owner-managers to take PR seriously. She is author of 'PR on a Beermat' and is a regular speaker. Louise sits on the ACCA Small Business Group and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations, a Fellow of the RSA, and a member of the Institute of Business Consulting.



Louise Third

BioCity backs Nottingham's Science City status

Miranda Knaggs has been seconded from BioCity 3 days a week to project manage Nottingham Science City and Glenn Crocker is playing a leading role in shaping the future of the City's business and property offer for bioscience and healthcare companies.

The City was designated by the Government as one of only six Science Cities in England in 2005. The status acknowledges a rich history of Nottingham science - from the invention of ibuprofen and the MRI scan, to the home it has provided to Boots and two of the country's leading research universities - and anticipates an equally rich future. A new report by global leader in information analysis Experian - itself a leading local employer - gives an idea of just how rich.

Experian was commissioned by Nottingham Development Enterprise and Nottingham City Council to gauge the progress of the local science sector. Experian concluded that Nottingham ranked in the top half of England's ten largest cities as a truly competitive location for science-based businesses and in ICT employment, third only to Oxford and Bristol.

The report also found that the city's science sector grew by almost 3,200 jobs between 2003 and 2005 - faster than the region and much faster than the average for England - and represents the fastest-growing market in the city. Not only that but Experian's own long-term forecasts suggest that employment in the city-region's science sector is likely to grow significantly over the next decade. www.science-city.co.uk

New NMR recruit

BioCity is pleased to welcome Nottingham University Graduate, Peter Thorpe, to the team. Peter will be the technician in the new Biotel lab and his principle duty will be to operate and maintain our new Bruker 400mhz NMR spectrometer. Peter will also be at the heart of the scientific concierge service and will build up, over time, knowledge of the equipment and expertise available across BioCity tenant companies and also provide a useful link to equipment and services offered by the Region's universities.



Peter Thorpe

Events

Recruitment for next Bioentrepreneur School begins

The UK's second Bio-Entrepreneur School will run from 26th to 28th February 2008. BioCity Nottingham will host the event which was held for the first time in 2007 to wide industry acclaim.

30 free places are available on this three-day intensive programme for bio-scientists and technologists who want to develop their entrepreneurial career. Interested applicants from across the UK can log onto www.bioentrepreneur.co.uk to find out what they need to do to be considered for the School. Places on the School are funded by emda through the Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP).

This year's School has attracted significant interest from leading sponsors the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), AdamsonJones and Nottingham City Council. In addition Connect Midlands, UKTI and Nelsons will sponsor the first evening Reception and PricewaterhouseCoopers are supporting the final Dinner.

QED Consulting, the specialist business consultancy, has developed and piloted the School which will be delivered by seasoned entrepreneurs and business professionals. It is designed to provide an injection of commercial reality and to help delegates explore their entrepreneurial potential, develop essential enterprise skills and overcome confidence barriers to starting in business in this very specialist sector.

BioCity chief executive Dr Glenn Crocker is looking forward to a

lively 2008 Bio-Entrepreneur School. "The School works well because it's an intensive, crash-course in the key skills needed to develop an early stage bioscience business. Last year's school was such a success that everyone involved in supporting it, including BioCity, didn't hesitate to sign up again this year. The School can never be a substitute for experience, but it will certainly help to get things off on the right foot and avoid some of the early pitfalls".

Applicants for the 2008 School can register on www.bioentrepreneur.co.uk



Helping delegates get off to the best possible start

Your feedback is welcomed

If you have comments on any of these articles or on BioCity in general, contact m.knaggs@biocity.co.uk

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