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Rhode Island ranks among top “Biotech Hubs”

Rhode Island named one of six Bioscience hotspots in North America in the “2009 BioWorld Relocation and Expansion Guide.”

Providence, R.I. – June 8, 2009 – Rhode Island has been named one of six “Biotech Hubs” in North America in the 2009 *BioWorld Relocation and Expansion Guide*. The Guide is a showcase of leading Bioscience-friendly locations for business relocation and expansion. Locations are ranked on criteria including site selection, tax credits, location and incubator, funding and research opportunities.

This year, the *Guide* also focuses on locations which “offer advantage relative to the current economic conditions,” according to the *Guide’s* introduction. As the article points out, Rhode Island boasts an accessible I-95 Corridor location, industry diversity, education resources, funding opportunities and a small, collaboration-focused size. Growth potential and prosperity for the industry in Rhode Island is exemplified by a 259% employee growth rate in the state’s bioscience Drugs and Pharmaceutical sector from 2001-2006, as opposed to a national sector growth rate of only 4%.

This is the third consecutive year Rhode Island has been represented in the *Guide*; ranking among Florida, Washington D.C., Georgia, Pennsylvania and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada locations. Last year, Rhode Island was grouped with more traditional Bioscience states, including California, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York as well as international “hubs,” France and Italy.

“Rhode Island’s feature in the 2009 *BioWorld Relocation and Expansion Guide* is a significant accomplishment for our Bioscience community,” said Kathie Shields, executive director of the Tech Collective. “From location to renowned education institutions to our small size, the buzz is growing that Rhode Island has much to offer the biosciences. The *BioWorld Guide* will help us to showcase these offerings nationally and globally as we continue to grow the businesses and the prosperity of Rhode Island’s Bioscience industry.”

“Rhode Island is genuinely unique among the 50 states in offering a “best-of-both-worlds” opportunity in [bioscience] relocation or expansion considerations,” notes Michael Harris, executive editor for *BioWorld Today*. “From its beginnings as one of the original 13 colonies, through its recognition as an aggressive principal in the twenty-first century life sciences industry, Rhode Island continues to be a magnet destination for individual and corporate agendas of innovation and progress.”

The 2009 *BioWorld Relocations and Expansion Guide* was distributed to over 10,000 industry professionals globally as well as to the over 14,000 attendees of the 2009 BIO International Convention from May 17-21 in Atlanta, GA. Tech Collective represented Rhode Island’s Bioscience community at the event in partnership with the New England Biotech Association (NEBA). The *BioWorld Relocation and Expansion Guide* is published annually by BioWorld Today, and can be found in its entirety at: www.bioworld.com/img/BioWorldRelocationGuide2009.pdf.

About BioWorld:

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About Tech Collective:

Tech Collective is the technology industry association of Rhode Island. Focusing on Community Building and Workforce Development, we are driving technology growth, innovation and prosperity by uniting industry, government and education. Tech Collective builds and strengthens community by creating partnerships, offering thought-provoking forums and organizing state-wide participation in events like NetTech 2.0, BioTuesday, BIO 2009, GRRRL Tech and Technology Laureate's Night. In promoting and developing a highly-skilled Rhode Island workforce, Tech Collective drives technology-based education and training programs for students in grades K-16 as well as for incumbent and transitioning workers. For more information about Tech Collective initiatives and events, please visit www.tech-collective.org.

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