

The Prince Edward Island Bioscience Cluster



Overview

The Prince Edward Island Bioscience Cluster is the location of choice for companies engaged in the research, development, and commercialization of bioactive-based human, animal, and fish health and nutrition products. Since 2005, **the PEI Bioscience Cluster has more than tripled in size**, with remarkable growth in business revenues and employment, and a marked increase in private and public-sector investments in our companies.

PEI Bioscience Cluster Metrics

- **54 companies**
- **Over \$200 million per year in private sector revenue**
- **1,575 sector employees**
- **125 new PEI job postings in 2017**
- **Over \$33 million in follow-on capital investments**

Key infrastructure

PEI BioAlliance is home to the Emergence **Bioscience Business Incubator**, a national program supporting startup and scale-up companies from across Canada. A virtual incubator, the program serves high-potential companies from across Canada, while also providing a “soft landing” for innovative international ventures seeking to start-up or establish themselves in, or expand into, North America. Emergence currently serves a portfolio of **67 mostly startup and early-stage client companies, which have raised over \$48 million in follow-on funding over the last year**, racked up revenues of \$29 million, and have grown their full-time employment by 75%.

PEI is also home to **Natural Products Canada Inc.** – Canada’s Centre of Excellence for the Commercialization and Research of natural products – which **received \$14 million in funding** by the National Centres of Excellence to accelerate the commercialization of new products and technologies derived from natural products.

PEI BioAlliance recently unveiled a **new suite of fermentation and downstream processing equipment** for the biotechnology industry. Located at BioFoodTech on the UPEI Campus, the new suite includes: 1250 litre dual jacket fermentation unit; a Westfalia separator/centrifuge; a Dominion & Grimm Reverse osmosis unit; and a pilot spray drying system.

Human Resources

The PEI Bioscience Cluster achieves high recruitment success and retention rates. By maintaining an extensive and current database and resume file of those seeking employment, including: Scientists/researchers; quality assurance/control specialists; production/engineers; and business development/administrators, we coach job seekers on accessing opportunities, and we promote industry job postings and organize networking events for our cluster. The BioAlliance collaborates with national organizations, such as **BioTalent Canada**, and local post-secondary institutions to supply talent to bioscience companies. **Holland College offers a two-year Bioscience Technology Program** and, in cooperation with UPEI, a **Bachelor of Science, Biotechnology**. **The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)** has undergraduate and graduate programs that include science, engineering, computer science and business. **Skills PEI offers programs that support recruitment and training**. And the PEI BioAlliance has connections to tap into international talent through the **Canadian Association of Newcomers to PEI and through UPEI’s International Student Office**.

Highlights

Recent Expansions

- The BioAlliance has added to manufacturing scale-up resources at BioFoodTech with a new \$1 million fermentation and downstream processing equipment suite
- BioVectra opened a new 21,000 square ft., \$4 million warehouse process development suites in Charlottetown (airport facility)
- Sekisui Diagnostics PEI Inc. has invested in another expansion of its facility in the West Royalty Industrial Park – following the completion of a \$6 million expansion and renovation of two new automated packaging lines, a cold storage building and a retrofit of their manufacturing and office areas
- Somru Bioscience Inc. constructed a new 5,000 square ft. facility to keep up with their growing international business
- \$2.3 million in investment and expansions at Holland College to improve specialized research and training space
- Dosecann, an innovative cannabis value add company, is renovating a 44,000 square ft. building in the PEI BioCommons

In the News

Atlantic Canada's Ocean Supercluster Successful

The Atlantic Ocean Supercluster proposal has been successfully selected as one of five new national clusters announced by the Federal Government. The BioAlliance is a member of the Oceans Supercluster team, representing marine biotechnology and fish health and nutrition capabilities in the region.

Investment Secured for Water Technology Commercialization

Island Water Technologies Inc. recently received \$500,000 in seed round investment by Island Capital Partners (ICP) and Natural Products Canada (NPC) for water technology commercialization. The deal comes on the heels of a string of wins for the PEI company, including its recent acceptance into esteemed water accelerator, Imagine H2O, as well as commercial wastewater projects in North Africa, China, and Kenya.

Stepscan and Deltason Medical Sign Distribution Contract

PEI's Stepscan Technologies Inc. has announced a new distribution contract with Deltason Medical Ltd. (Deltason) of Hong Kong. Through this deal, Deltason becomes a representative of the Stepscan® Gait Analysis System, marketing and distributing it to healthcare professionals within their territory.

Charlottetown Company Signs Agreement with Province for Supply of Cannabis

Canada's Island Garden, is expanding its Charlottetown facility to meet the demand for medical marijuana as well as recreational marijuana once it is legalized. The Charlottetown-based company is one of three companies that has entered into an agreement to supply the PEI government with legal and regulated marijuana.

Nautilus Biosciences Purchase Brings Croda to Prince Edward Island

Croda International Plc, who creates, makes and sells speciality chemicals for some of the biggest, most successful brands in the world, has acquired PEI's Nautilus Biosciences Canada Inc. – a technology-rich marine biotech company. Croda and Nautilus already have a proven history of successful collaboration, having worked closely together for the past six years developing specific applications for skin care and hair care, as well as crop care. Croda intends to establish Nautilus as a Croda Centre of Innovation for Marine Biotechnology at Nautilus' existing base at the University of Prince Edward Island.

BioVectra Recognized as One of Atlantic Canada's Top Employers (2018)

BioVectra Inc. has been recognized as one of Atlantic Canada's Top Employers for 2018 by MediaCorp Inc. The Pharmaceutical manufacturing company is one of PEI's oldest, largest and most successful bio-based businesses, with over 250 employees.

PEI BioAlliance 2018 International Events

Atlantic Canada Mission to the [BIO 2018 International Convention & Trade Show](#)
June 4 - 7, Boston, Mass

NeuroConX 2018

The global science and business conference connecting brain health and natural products
July 7 - 9, Charlottetown, PEI

ISAAH 2018

8th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health
September 2 - 6, Charlottetown, PEI