

Building America's Next Biomanufacturing Cluster: Oklahoma City's Long-Term Vision

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At BIO International Convention 2026, Dennis Pruitt, Senior Vice President, Economic Development at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, explains how collaboration, competitive costs, strong research institutions and a business-friendly environment are positioning Oklahoma City as an emerging destination for biomanufacturing and life sciences investment.



Oklahoma City's life sciences ambitions are increasingly centred on advanced manufacturing, collaboration, and long-term investment. **Speaking with BioSpectrum Asia during BIO 2026 in San Diego, Dennis Pruitt, Senior Vice President, Economic Development at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber**, explains how the region's collaborative business culture, competitive operating environment, research strengths, and strategic focus on biomanufacturing are creating the foundations for Oklahoma City to emerge as one of America's next leading life sciences and biomanufacturing hubs.

How is Oklahoma City positioning itself within the increasingly competitive life-sciences investment landscape?

Good science, strong financial incentives, ample land for manufacturing, low costs to build and operate facilities, a young workforce with practical training opportunities, an engaged federal congressional delegation, and a welcoming business environment.

What advantages does the region offer companies seeking to expand operations or establish new facilities?

What we hear from our companies about why Oklahoma City's life science sector is growing is culture and accessibility. By culture, they mean there is a willingness for others to help, even if they do not benefit financially. They find the people here both nice and willing to work. The priority is people, not money. For accessibility, it means support is one telephone call away. We can get you to the governor or to the president of a university with one call. Accessibility results in integration and a nurturing environment for companies.

How important is economic development strategy in supporting innovation-driven industries?

Innovation rarely happens in isolation. Economic development is all about fostering connections and deepening collaboration between industry, academia, and government. By supporting our existing companies while actively pursuing new business attractions, we will create an environment in which innovation thrives.

What sectors within life sciences are attracting the strongest interest from investors and companies?

The University of Oklahoma is a key driver of life sciences in our state, and the university is focusing its efforts on cancer, diabetes & metabolic disease, neuroscience & brain health. Our business attraction goals are biomanufacturing/contract development and manufacturing.

What is your vision for Oklahoma City's life-sciences ecosystem over the next decade?

We would like to see the Oklahoma City region recognized as a premier biomanufacturing hub. We are actively pursuing international connections, and we hope that results in increased foreign direct investment.