

North Carolina: a global leader in biopharma manufacturing



Leading Pharma Companies. A Large, Growing Talent Pool. A Thriving Ecosystem. Favorable Business Climate. All in North Carolina.

In December 2023, JLL recognized North Carolina as the top U.S. biopharma manufacturing hub. Leading pharma companies, such as **Astellas Gene Therapies**, **Biogen**, **CSL Seqirus**, **Eli Lilly**, **Grifols**, **Merck**, and **Novo Nordisk**, are taking advantage of the state's highly skilled talent pool.

A breadth of products is manufactured in North Carolina, spanning established and new technologies. This includes treatments for diabetes, plasma-derived proteins, gene- and cell-based therapies, monoclonal antibodies, vaccines and industrial enzymes.

Contract development and manufacturing organizations, such as **FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies**, **KBI Biopharma**, **Resilience** and **Thermo Fisher Scientific**, also manufacture a range of biologics for their clients.

Talent

North Carolina has built a substantial biopharma manufacturing talent base with 32,000 workers. With a full continuum of complementary training programs, the state can meet the growing demand for skilled workers.

A unique public-private partnership called **NCBioImpact** helps coordinate training curricula across training institutions, including North Carolina State University's Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center, North Carolina Central University's

Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise, Eastern Region Pharma Center, North Carolina Pharmaceutical Services Network and the North Carolina Community College System's BioNetwork. Together, they have created a world-class, hands-on training system delivering job-ready talent.

A Thriving Ecosystem

Biopharma manufacturing companies benefit from the state's collaborative life sciences ecosystem, specialized organizations, and top-tier universities.

For the past 40 years, the **North Carolina Biotechnology Center** has initiated programs and coordinated resources to help biopharma companies thrive and grow. **NCLifeSci** hosts the Biotech Manufacturers Forum, where companies share information and create solutions for collective challenges.

Local organizations participate in **National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals'** projects to advance innovation.

Favorable Business Climate

North Carolina has lower business operating costs compared to other leading life sciences hubs. The corporate taxes, currently at 2.5%, will decrease to 0% by 2030. The state has a favorable legal and regulatory environment as well as plenty of land for future growth.

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Global pharmaceutical giant **Eli Lilly and Company** committed to invest nearly \$2 billion in North Carolina. In 2020, the company announced plans to build its first manufacturing plant in Research Triangle Park (RTP) with a \$474 million investment, creating 462 new jobs. In 2022, Lilly announced an additional \$939 million investment in a new pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Concord, creating nearly 600 jobs. In 2023, Lilly announced yet another investment of \$450 million, an add-on to its RTP pharmaceutical manufacturing campus, with 100+ new jobs.

In 2024, CDMO **Resilience** announced an expansion of its RTP-based site where it manufactures clinical and commercial products. The company strives to keep pace with industry's growing demands for biomanufacturing services. Across its manufacturing network, Resilience plans to provide over 200 million units to its partners by 2025. The RTP expansion also includes an additional 45,000 square feet of modular space for additional manufacturing capacity.

North Carolina is taking the lead in manufacturing new gene- and cell-based therapies as regulatory approvals are achieved.

- **AskBio's** adeno-associated virus-based portfolio of preclinical and clinical-stage therapies, as well as its manufacturing capabilities, were acquired by Bayer. This homegrown, RTP-based company turned global gene therapy leader is worth up to \$4 billion for the RTP-based company.
- Durham-based **Novartis Gene Therapies** is producing Zolgensma, its FDA-approved gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy, as well as products currently in the clinic.
- In Raleigh, **Collectis** manufactures its portfolio of UCART drug products, including gene-editing technologies and cell therapies to treat cancers of the blood, myeloid, and lymphatic system. In 2022, the company announced the first U.S. patient received a dose of its UCART22 allogeneic CAR T cell therapy product candidate, which was manufactured in North Carolina.

North Carolina is an attractive place for biomanufacturing at scale. From talent to training partners, from a collaborative ecosystem to a business-friendly climate, the state has what you need to accelerate your products to market. Let NCBiotech be your partner in finding the ideal place to grow your company.

Accelerate Your Success. All in North Carolina.

North Carolina Biotechnology Center®

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