



Michael F. Easley, Governor

James T. Fain, Commerce Secretary

North Carolina Department of Commerce

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NORTH CAROLINA RETAINS NO. 3 RANKING IN BIOTECHNOLOGY State Remains National Leader In 2005 Ernst & Young Report

RALEIGH – North Carolina retains its No. 3 ranking and continues to be among the strongest biotechnology states in the U.S., according to a new report just released by analysts Ernst & Young. For the second straight year, the company ranked North Carolina third behind California and Massachusetts in its Global Biotechnology Report 2005 *Beyond Borders*.

The report, which focuses on the new level of maturity and globalization reached by the biotech industry in 2004, said that North Carolina continues to be the "leading center in the Southeast for biotechnology" and has the third largest concentration of biotech public and private companies in the U.S.

That came as no surprise to Commerce Secretary Jim Fain.

"North Carolina's consistent investment in biotechnology has positioned us to sustain and grow our major presence, documented by the Ernst & Young study," Fain said. "For example, our comprehensive training initiative – a collaboration of the universities and Community College System, the Biotechnology Center and the biopharma industry – strengthens our hand in attracting biomanufacturing opportunities."

Fain continued, "In recognizing the globalization of the industry, the Department of Commerce and the Biotech Center have been working together to establish relationships with biotech companies around the world."

North Carolina has more than 225 biotechnology, pharmaceutical, lab testing and contract research companies employing 40,000 people, the Milken Institute and North Carolina Biotechnology Center report.

Last week, Gov. Mike Easley broke ground on the site of the nation's first Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) on N.C. State University's Centennial Campus. The 91,000-square-foot facility, scheduled to open in early 2007, will provide statewide education and training, economic development and job creation for the biomanufacturing, pharmaceutical and related agribiotechnology industries in the state.

At that groundbreaking, Easley announced that North Carolina would continue to make the investments necessary to become not only the national, but world leader in this industry..

"During the last three years we have moved from fifth in the nation in biotech to third," he said. "And I just want to tell the 'Terminator' and the governor of the New England Patriots that we are hot on their tail and that we plan to bypass them soon. North Carolina is committed to making the necessary investment to be first in the country, first in the world, in biotech."

Ernst & Young plans to present the Beyond Borders findings at BIO 2005, an international biotechnology conference that will be held later this month in Philadelphia.

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