North Carolina: a global leader in biopharma manufacturing


North Carolina is one of the nation’s top states for biological processing talent. Our talent and low business costs make North Carolina a best value place for biopharma manufacturing.

A wide range of products is manufactured in the state, spanning established and new technologies. These products include Novo Nordisk’s and Eli Lilly’s treatments for diabetes, Grifols’ plasma-derived proteins, and gene therapies, including those from Astellas Gene Therapies, Beam Therapeutics, CARsgen Therapeutics, Cellectis, Novartis Gene Therapies and more. Companies such as CSL Seqirus, Merck and Pfizer are manufacturing vaccines. Contract development and manufacturing organizations, such as FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, KBI Biopharma and Thermo Fisher Scientific, manufacture a range of biologics for clients.

North Carolina has a full continuum of complementary training programs. 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 (BTEC)
- North Carolina Central University’s Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE)
- Eastern Region Pharma Center (ERPC)
- North Carolina Pharmaceutical Services Network (NCPSN)
- North Carolina Community College System’s BioNetwork

Together, they created a world-class, hands-on training system for job-ready talent.

A Thriving Ecosystem

Biopharma manufacturing companies benefit from our collaborative life sciences ecosystem, specialized organizations, and top-tier universities.

The North Carolina Biotechnology Center leads statewide life sciences economic development and workforce development initiatives.

The North Carolina Biosciences Organization hosts the Biotech Manufacturers Forum, where companies share information and address common concerns.

Local organizations participate in National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) projects to advance innovation.
Continued Growth

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 a $939 million investment in a new pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Concord, creating nearly 600 jobs. In 2023, Lilly announced another investment of $450 million, an add-on to its RTP pharmaceutical manufacturing campus, with 100+ new jobs.

The Next Transformation

As gene- and cell-based therapeutics gain regulatory approvals, North Carolina is taking the lead in manufacturing these transformative products.

- **AskBio**’s AAV-based portfolio of preclinical and clinical-stage therapies, as well as its manufacturing capabilities, were acquired by Bayer. This homegrown company turned global gene therapy leader is worth up to $4 billion for the RTP-based company.
- In Durham, **Novartis Gene Therapies** is producing Zolgensma, its FDA-approved gene therapy for spinal muscular atrophy, as well as products currently in the clinic.
- **Pfizer** acquired an additional manufacturing site in Sanford in 2023 to expand its manufacturing capacity and accelerate its innovative pipeline.
- In 2022, **Precision BioSciences** established an in vivo gene-editing collaboration with **Novartis** focused on gene insertion for sickle cell disease and beta thalassemia.
- In 2022, **Cellectis** announced the first patient in the U.S. received a dose of its UCART22 allogeneic CAR-T cell therapy product candidate, which was manufactured at the company’s manufacturing facility in Raleigh.

**Scaling production of your product requires skilled talent, training partners, and a business-friendly climate. Let NCBiotech help you find the perfect place in North Carolina to grow your company.**