

Spotlight on the Southeast U.S. Biotech Industry at the 2009 BIO International Convention

SE BIO Launches Regional Database and Site Visit Planner for Region's Biotech Business

WASHINGTON, D.C. and ATLANTA, GA (March 19, 2009) – By hosting the 2009 BIO International Convention in Atlanta, Ga., May 18-21, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) is shining a light on the Southeastern U.S. biotech hub.

To help attendees, exhibitors and journalists navigate the region, Southeast BIO (SE BIO), a regional nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the growth of the Southeast's life sciences industry, has launched Southeast BIOtech Connect, an interactive database that outlines the over 1,200 biotech companies and centers throughout Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Southeast BIOtech Connect can be accessed at www.sebio.org and also on the BIO event website, <http://convention.bio.org>.

The purpose of and the functionality of the database will be for BIO attendees to schedule facility visits before and after their visit to Atlanta. Robbi Lycett, vice president of Conventions and Conferences at BIO praised the tool saying "BIO attendees, in particular international visitors, very much need an efficient resource like the Southeast BIOtech Connect tool to create a trip agenda that meets their needs. We appreciate the project from SE BIO."

"The North Carolina Biotech Center often receives visit requests around the annual BIO convention," said Ken Tindall, senior vice president for science and business development at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center and the chair of SE BIO's State Biotech Partnership committee. "In the past three years, we have arranged numerous meetings in North Carolina at the request of international visitors attending the convention. The Biotechnology Center welcomes SE BIO Connect as a tool to facilitate making important business and partnership connections in the state.

"The Southeastern United States has a dynamic and growing life sciences industry," says Stephanie Adams, executive director of SE BIO. "We welcome the 2009 BIO International Convention to our region and are excited for the opportunity it provides us to showcase the biotechnology innovation in our area."

There are currently over 30 public companies and more than 1,200 private biotech companies in the region. North Carolina, Georgia and Florida are among the top 10 U.S. biotech centers.

"We are very pleased to bring the world's largest gathering of the biotechnology community to Atlanta this year," says Lycett. "The innovation of the many Southeastern U.S. life sciences companies is a great example of the entire industry's work to heal, fuel and feed the world and we're thankful for SE BIO's efforts to showcase that ingenuity and opportunity."

The 2009 BIO International Convention is expected to draw 20,000 industry leaders from around the world. The Convention program will feature more than 150 sessions in

21 breakout session tracks highlighting the latest information and the newest opportunities for executives, investors, scientists, policy leaders, and media from around the world. More than 1,000 speakers will share breakthroughs in medicine, diagnostics, the environment, energy production, food and agriculture and more. The BIO Exhibition will cover more than 200,000 net square feet, hosting more than 2,200 exhibitors. For information on exhibiting at the 2009 BIO International Convention, please visit <http://convention.bio.org/exhibitors>.

The BIO International Convention helps to support BIO programs and initiatives. BIO works throughout the year to create a policy environment that enables the industry to continue to fulfill its vision of bettering the world through biotechnology innovation. For more information on the global event for biotechnology, including program and housing information, please visit <http://convention.bio.org>.

About BIO

BIO represents more than 1,200 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. BIO also produces the BIO International Convention, the world's largest gathering of the biotechnology industry, along with industry-leading investor and partnering meetings held around the world.

About SE BIO

Southeast BIO (SEBIO) is a regional nonprofit organization that fosters the growth of the life sciences industry in the Southeastern U.S. through efforts that promote entrepreneurship and bring together companies, investors, universities and support organizations active in the development of the industry. Today, the Southeast is recognized as one of the fastest growing life sciences regions in the U.S. and home to more than 800 life sciences companies. A public/private partnership formed in 1999, SEBIO is committed to conducting activities that create regional leverage and facilitate the common interests and goals of constituents in the life sciences industry. The geographic footprint of SEBIO presently includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. For more information on SEBIO, go to www.sebio.org.