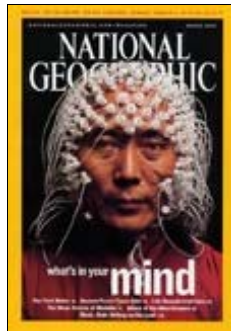


S U C C E S S S T O R I E S

Community & Economic Development Program

http://www.lanecounty.org/CAO_EconDev/



- 400 employees
- Average employee salary exceeds \$50,000
- Total annual payroll exceeds \$15 million
- 18 successful start-up companies

The RRP Technology Incubator Boasts Successful Companies

By Heather M. Edwards

Turning ideas into successful businesses ventures is always a gamble. But lowering overhead and mitigating risks for entrepreneurs can make that gamble more affordable. The Riverfront Innovation Center, a technology incubator at the [Riverfront Research Park](#) minimizes the upfront investment new businesses have to commit as they're establishing themselves.

In 2002, the Lane County Economic Development Standing Committee allocated \$60,000 for a Market Feasibility Study and the development of a Business Plan. The study yielded major opportunities for economic growth and development in the technology and manufacturing sectors. The business plan laid the framework for a technology incubator that would house and network technology-based start-up companies.

More than 900 business incubators are thriving in the United States. Offering shared facilities and services (conference rooms, office equipment, reception), direct business assistance, below-market leases or month-to-month rental is a progressive trend among research institutes and government agencies improving their community's standard of living by diversifying and developing their economies in these lucrative business sectors.

The UO has been extremely successful in converting basic and applied research into forming high-tech start-up companies. Companies housed in the Riverfront Research Park are diversifying our region's economy through R & D in the fields of neuroscience, informatics, biotechnology, education, behavioral science, healthcare, and information technology.

The innovation cultivated in the technology incubator is impressive. Electric Geodesics, Inc., one of the RRP's most successful start-up companies, has developed geodesic sensor nets (as pictured above left) that measure brain activity with extreme accuracy. They were featured in the March 2005 issue of National Geographic and in the August 2005 issue of Newsweek.

The Riverfront Research Park is expanding its services and facilities to promote the growth of firms that research and develop this caliber of commercializable technology. By fostering the success of firms that offer high-skilled high-paying jobs, as well as marketing high-tech innovation, the RRP is a showcase for economic development in Lane County.

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