



## German Biosciences Company Relocating Headquarters to San Antonio

Today at a news conference, it was announced that German-based company Cytocentrics Bioscience (Cytocentrics) is relocating its corporate headquarters and operations to San Antonio's District 9. City Council voted to approve an up to \$1 million grant over five years, as part of an agreement with the company in which it will create 300 high-wage jobs with an average salary of \$70,000 and invest \$15 million, and enter into a research development partnership with the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery (CIDD), a joint venture between the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, as well as another partnership for workforce development with Alamo Colleges.

Cytocentrics manufactures and analyzes data for a medical device called a **CytoPatch Machine** that automates a medical "patch clamp" technique. This technique evaluates environmental and pharmaceutical interactions with human cells. This technique is an example of the convergence of robotics, microbiology and bioscience.

The research partnership has significant potential impact for drug discovery research across multiple therapeutic disciplines, and will benefit several different departments at UTSA and UT Health Science Center. It's also expected that this partnership will complement UTSA's drive to obtaining Tier-1 status.

Mayor Taylor particularly commended Cytocentrics for entering into these partnerships with the institutions of higher learning.

"Both of these partnerships are great steps towards further preparing San Antonio's workforce in the biosciences industry," said Mayor Taylor during the news conference. She also stated that this project is "indicative of [the City's] efforts to focus on the biomedical industry, which currently employs one in six San Antonians and has over an estimated \$30 billion in economic impact."

Mayor Ivy Taylor, District 9 Councilman Joseph Krier and City Manager Sheryl Sculley thanked the company for choosing to relocate its headquarters and manufacturing operations to San Antonio.

Councilman Krier said: "as co-chair of the San Antonio Medical Foundation's Strategic planning task force, this announcement is dramatic support of our call for out-of-the-box cooperation and collaboration."

Dr. Jim Garvin, CEO of Cytocentrics also took the stage thanking the City of San Antonio for the grant.

Garvin added that “this grant continues to tell the world about the unique impact our company is having on the world of medical research and what that impact can mean for improving all our lives. As well as telling the scientific community that San Antonio is a dynamic, vibrant community and a great place to come and be a part of.”

All of the institutes of higher learning shared their gratitude to the company for their partnership and further explained why these are crucial for research and the biomedical ecosystem not only in San Antonio, but all of South Texas.

"In a time when research funding is scarce and collaboration is essential, we are happy to welcome CytoCentrics Bioscience to San Antonio and are grateful for their generosity," said William L. Henrich, M.D., President of the UT Health Science Center. "We are proud to partner with our sister institution, UTSA, on the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery and are pleased to house two CytoPatch Machines on our Health Science Center campus, where other institutions in South Texas may utilize them for research as well."

Dr. Henrich added that “the technology of the CytoPatch is very sophisticated and will provide opportunities to expand our research and garner additional grant funding to foster discovery.”

UTSA’s Vice President for Research Dr. Mauli Agrawal also shared Dr. Henrich’s sentiment on the company’s collaboration.

“San Antonio is known for its collaborative spirit. CytoCentrics’ relocation to San Antonio serves as an example of how the private sector, academia, and the City can partner together to enable progress, drive innovation, and ultimately create more jobs,” said Dr. Agrawal.

“This opportunity for the Alamo Colleges to provide training that will train local workers for high-paying, high tech jobs is further recognition of our status as the primary provider of innovative, successful job training programs tailored to the needs of local employers," said Dr. Federico Zaragoza, Alamo Colleges' Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley closed the news conference. She gave a breakdown of what type of jobs would come out of the project.

“The job breakdown for these positions include approximately 40 percent professional positions that will require post-graduate level education and about 53 percent that will need some sort of certified training through the Alamo Colleges, with the rest composed of executive and clerical positions,” said Sculley.

### **About CytoCentrics**

CytoCentrics, Inc. is a company that focuses on developing technology that increases our understanding of how human cells respond to various kinds of drugs and drug therapy. Cells have membranes, these membranes have pores, called ion channels – CytoCentrics technologies increase science and medicine’s understanding about those ion channels with an outcome that makes drugs safer and more effective. Additionally, the company is continuing to push development of cellular biology. The CytoCentrics technology is a unique blend of nano chip development, robotics, biochemistry, and physics.

### **City on the Rise: San Antonio**

San Antonio is a city on the rise for the new face of America—a diverse, progressive and globally competitive city with a solid vision for national and international economic development. The City of San Antonio maintains a strong financial position with a “AAA” general obligation bond rating from all three major rating agencies. In 2014, Forbes labeled San Antonio the “Best City in the Southwest” for adults ages 18-34 for its dynamic economy, employment opportunities and affordable living. As the seventh-largest city in the United States, San Antonio is experiencing solid economic growth in 21st century industries such as bioscience, aerospace, cybersecurity and healthcare, which contribute billions to the local economy. San Antonio has also positioned itself at the forefront of the New Energy Economy in the United States, committed to investing and creating employment opportunities in green industries. San Antonio continues to experience the addition of missions at its several military commands, further fostering a significant relationship spanning more than 200 years. Nearly 30 million visitors come to San Antonio every year, generating more than \$12 billion annually and making the travel industry a vital asset to the city’s economic health.

Source:

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/EDD/MediaResourceCenter/NewsAndEvents/TabId/876/ArtMID/2617/ArticleID/3655/German-Biosciences-Company-Relocating-Headquarters-to-San-Antonio.aspx>

June 11th 2015