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BioEnterprise: Ohio 2nd in Midwest for medical device firms

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Among Midwestern states, Ohio's more than 600 medical devices manufacturers and distributors are second in numbers only to those in Illinois, a new industry analysis states.

A report from BioEnterprise Corp., a Cleveland biosciences business incubator, found Ohio had the second-highest concentration of medical devices makers and distributors registered with the federal Food and Drug Administration at 625 companies. Among Midwestern states, Ohio trails Illinois, home to 966 such businesses.

The showing in Ohio points to a shift in manufacturing in the state, to medical-related production from automotive and industrial markets, BioEnterprise officials said.

"The existing manufacturing base provides a strong foundation for Ohio's growing bioscience economy," BioEnterprise Chief Executive Officer Baiju Shah said in a release.

While the sector's economic impact on Ohio trails that of agricultural biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, medical devices producers and distributors were the largest employers in Ohio's bioscience industry, according to a December 2007 report by another group, BioOhio. That devices sector employed more than 12,000 workers and had an economic impact of \$2.8 billion in 2006.

The biosciences industry's estimated economic impact on the state exceeded \$27.3 billion in 2006.

According to BioOhio, the biosciences industry now accounts for nearly 18 percent of the state's economic output.

Ranking behind Ohio in the Midwest analysis by BioEnterprise were:

- Minnesota, with 577 medical devices manufacturers and distributors companies.
- Michigan, with 448 such firms.
- Indiana, with 359 similar companies.

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