

HIGH-TECH WORKFORCE

ENTREPRENEURS

CHIP DESIGN AND SOFTWARE

TECHNOLOGY

CLUSTER PROFILE FORT COLLINS, CO



Fort Collins is home to a large, diverse high-tech workforce. Despite the ups and downs of the tech sector, Fort Collins remains an attractive location for new businesses. Companies that specialize in data mapping, computer programming, Internet service, software development and computer facilities management are grouped in the Software cluster. The City of Fort Collins and its residents value the software companies and agencies that make their home here.

TECHNOLOGY

Innovation thrives here! Approximately 250 software companies are located in Fort Collins; 80 percent employ less than 10 people. Technology they have developed is used at the top levels of the government, military and private businesses. Colorado State University's main campus in Fort Collins has a legacy of GIS curriculum and career paths across disciplines.

Start-up assistance for seed high-tech companies is available through the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative (RMI²), a high-tech incubator for innovative companies. Offering mentoring, physical space, business advisement and funding options, RMI² is equipped to assist up-and-coming technology firms of all kinds.

STRENGTHS

- Synergistic relationships between other software companies along the Colorado I-25 Corridor
- Access to skilled workforce
- Reliable and affordable infrastructure
- High quality of life
- Denver International Airport, one hour's drive

LEGACY OF GIS

The legacy of geospatial technology is rich and diverse in Northern Colorado:

- Hewlett Packard established location-based computer system centers in Loveland and Fort Collins in 1960 and 1978
- Colorado State University began teaching GIS in 1980's in their Natural Resources Dept.
- In the 1990s, nearly a dozen GIS companies opened their doors in Fort Collins
- Geospatial technologies have been used successfully by local government agencies in Northern Colorado since the 1980's
- In the fall of 2007, RMI² began hosting meetings with private businesses and public agencies to begin the work of building a cluster to support the "GIS Alley"

SAMPLE SOFTWARE COMPANIES

- Clear Path Labs
- New Century Software
- I-cubed
- Information Technology Experts, Inc. (ITX)
- Integware, Inc.
- Red Hen Systems
- Riverside Technology, Inc.
- Secure 64

SAMPLE HARDWARE COMPANIES

- AMD
- Avago
- Hewlett Packard
- Intel
- LSI
- National Semi-Conductor
- NVIDIA
- Pelco

ENRICHING THE ECONOMY

The Technology Cluster was hard hit over the last three years, 13.8% of the workforce was lost. Ninety-five percent of those losses occurred in the Hardware Cluster. On the bright side, 214 patents were issued to companies within the cluster in 2009, and more than 475 companies are thriving in the area.

- Fort Collins has one of the highest Software and Hardware employment concentrations in the country
- Workforce development and initiatives are priorities for local educational institutions and businesses

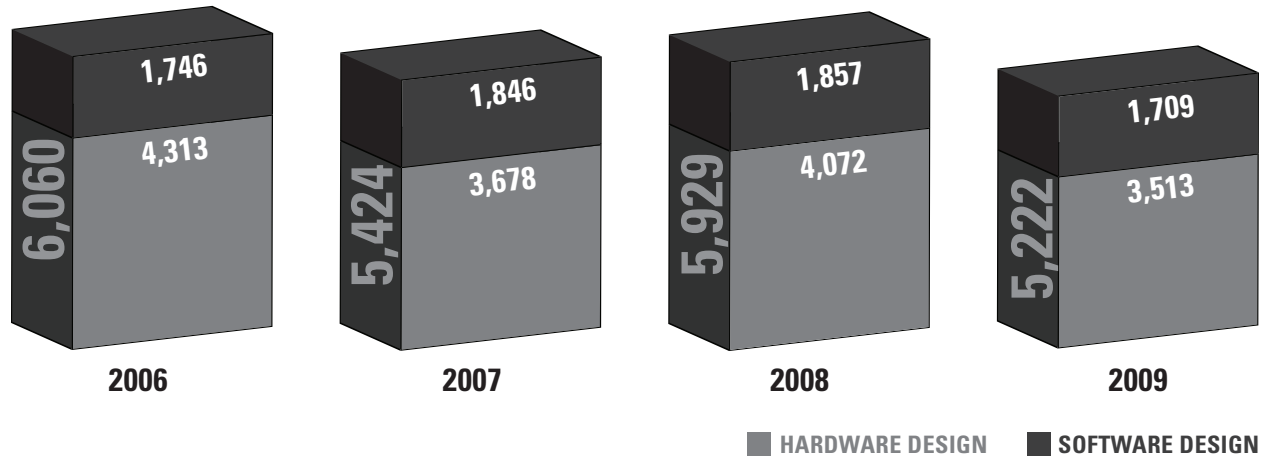
COLLABORATION & RESOURCES

- Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative
- Colorado State University
- Front Range Community College
- Poudre School District
- ESRI
- Fast Trac® Tech Ventures through RMI²

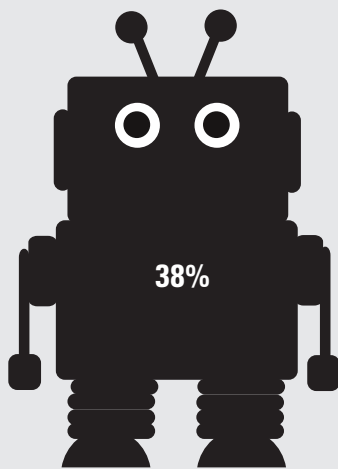
TECHNOLOGY

EMPLOYMENT TREND

number of employees



2009 EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION



Architectural Engineering,
Computer Systems Design
& Related Services



12%

Software Publishing,
Websearch Portals
& Data Hosting



Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.

2009 Q4 EARNINGS



\$32 M
SOFTWARE DESIGN



\$94 M
HARDWARE DESIGN

WHAT'S NEW

1. Hewlett-Packard, Inc. donated \$10,000 worth of technology equipment to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, enhancing the day-to-day operations of the Foundation and its clients.
2. Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative teaches entrepreneurial skills and tactics with FastTrac® TechVenture™, a specialized curriculum developed by the Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation.
3. Integware is relocating to the Harmony Technology Park with its 120 employees and preparing for more growth in their new location.
4. Two Colorado State University computer scientists awarded \$7.8 million from the National Science Foundation to examine routing and security measures associated with the Internet.
5. Advanced Microlabs entered the commercialization stage for Ion Analysis in the Industrial Clean Water Market after receiving a Phase II SBIR grant for 845K from the National Institute of Health.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Following your passions and pursuing your career don't have to be mutually exclusive.

- **One of the top six 'Smarter Cities' for Energy:** Natural Resources Defense Council, (population 100,000-249,999) - August 2010
- **Ranked 6th Best Place to Live in the Nation:** *Money Magazine* - July 2010
- **One of the Most Underrated Cities in the West:** *Life.com* - June 2010
- **One of the Greatest Places to Live in the West:** *American Cowboy* magazine - April 2010
- **Ranked 3rd Best State for Business, Colorado,** *CNBC* April 2010
- **Ranked 4th Best Place for Business and Careers,** *Forbes.com* March 2010
- **Ranked 1st Best Place to Live and Work for Young Professionals (pop. 100,000-200,000),** Next Generation Consulting - March 2009

CONTACTS

For more information on the Software cluster and GIS Alley

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For more information on expanding or relocating your business

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GIS Alley, Rocky Mountain GeoSpatial Cluster gisalley.com

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative rmi2.org

Doing business in Fort Collins fcgov.com/business

Online entrepreneur support fortcollinsinnovation.com

Community information ftcollins.com

Fort Collins Cluster Performance Report available on fcgov.com/business