WATER INNOVATION

CLUSTER PROFILE | FORT COLLINS, CO

The Water Innovation Cluster consists of companies who develop, design, produce, and distribute technologies that promote the more efficient use of water. The sector is a healthy mix of mature companies such as In-Situ, Water Pik, and Riverside Technologies and start-up companies such as Advanced Microlabs, Synaptic Sensors, and OptiEnz Sensors. Supported by research capabilities at CSU and innovative initiatives of the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster (CWIC), the water technology sector in Fort Collins is poised for growth.

2013 NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **IN-SITU** donated $72,000 of equipment to the Water Innovation Network to track water quality in the Poudre River watershed.
- **IN-SITU** released the smarTROLL and app that allows technicians to monitor dissolved oxygen levels in water with their iPhones.
- **ARCADIS** and **CSU** partnered to establish the Center for Excellence in Remediation Hydrology, which focuses on groundwater restoration.
- **OPEN WATER FOUNDATION**, a resident of Innosphere, launched to create systems that make water data accessible and transparent.
- **RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGY** was awarded $58 million in NOAA contracts to monitor fisheries as part of the Observers Program of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

RESOURCES & ASSETS

RESEARCH

- The Colorado Water Institute
- CSU's Waste Water Treatment Research Pilot Plant
- CSU's Hydrologic & Water Resource System Computing Laboratory
- CSU's Hydraulic Research Laboratory
- CSU's Groundwater Advanced Visualization and Engineering Computer Laboratory
- Metropolitan State University of Denver's Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship

INCUBATION & COMMERCIALIZATION

- CSU Ventures
- Rocky Mountain Innosphere

FUNDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- NoCo Capital / Angels
- Colorado Water Innovation Cluster
- Imagine H2O

City of Fort Collins

The City of Fort Collins supports the water innovation cluster primarily through its sponsorship of the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster and Rocky Mountain Innosphere.

In 2013, the City contributed $25,000 to CWIC for membership dues and $7,500 for the Net Zero Water Project. Other members and organizations contributed just over $53,000 to CWIC and its initiatives. The City contributed $70,000 to Rocky Mountain Innosphere. In 2013, Innosphere served one company in the water cluster that created 4 jobs and raised $315,000.

In all, for every $1 the City of Fort Collins invested in the water cluster, other participants invested $11.

SPECIALTIES: REMOTE MONITORING • WATER/ ENERGY NEXUS • WATER REMEDIATION • WATER MANAGEMENT •

TOP 5 EMPLOYERS (BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES)

Source: QCEW

BY THE NUMBERS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013:

 # OF FIRMS

36

EMPLOYMENT

670

EMPLOYMENT CHANGE 2011-12

-5

EARNINGS PER WORKER

$82,708

PRIVATE $ TO CITY $ INVESTED

$11

Source: QCEW, City of Fort Collins

INNOVATION

2013 SBIR AWARDS: $650,000

OPTIENZ SENSORS received a Phase I SBIR grant to develop a cell-free optical enzymatic biosensor for monitoring trichloroethene concentrations in water.

RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGY received a Phase I SBIR grant to develop a downscaling tool to measure soil moisture at a resolution required by various Army and civilian applications.

SYMBIOS received a Phase II SBIR grant to support the final development and commercialization of a plasma treatment system.

Note: SBIR awards refers to the Federal Government's Small Business Innovation Research program.

PATENTS AWARDED 2013

Water Pik

Note: Patent Producers are identified based on the assignee name.
Source: US Patent Office

THE 2013 FLOOD

In September 2013, North Colorado experienced a 1,000-year flood event, which caused more than $2 billion in economic damages. The flood was a reminder of the importance of land use planning, disaster preparedness, water management, flow measurement tools, water monitoring, and flood modeling and simulation. In the face of this disaster, the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster, through initiatives such as the Watershed Innovation Network, will advance technologies and tools that will help communities better prepare for future flood events.

BUSINESS FORMATION & EXPANSION

2013 INCUBATION & ACCELERATION

Companies	1
Employees	4
Venture Capital Raised	$315,000
City Investment	$2,121

Note: City contribution is the share of the overall contribution to Innosphere dedicated to companies in the water cluster.
Source: Rocky Mountain Innosphere, City of Fort Collins

EXPANSION & RELOCATION:

Companies	n/a
New Jobs	n/a
Capital Investment	n/a
City Investment	n/a

Source: City of Fort Collins

COLORADO WATER INNOVATION CLUSTER

The Colorado Water Innovation Cluster is a member-based, non-profit organization that aims to drive market development for new solutions addressing current and future water challenges. Through its projects and initiatives, CWIC aims to create opportunities for Colorado's water technology companies and to enhance the competitiveness of these cluster companies.

The primary projects are currently the Net Zero Water Initiative and the Water Innovation Network. **The Net Zero Water Initiative** proposes spearhead the development of better water planning tools. **The Watershed Innovation Network** aims to facilitate the development and demonstration of technologies for sound water management.