

BIC's Bioscience Program Identifies Potential Businesses

BY JEFF THOMAS

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BOULDER – The Boulder Innovation Center started out 2008 with a new program manager in biosciences and a healthy crop of potential business after only a few months of review.

Christopher Rehm, who obtained his master's degree in business administration from Purdue University's International program in Hanover, Germany, has only been on the job for a couple of months, but the program already has identified three potential businesses in biosciences.

"Currently, the BIC biosciences program has three cases progressing toward possible commercialization," said Tim Bour, the BIC executive director.

"The first case involves a thiolene hydrogel technology that allows for safer and more concentrated drug delivery to patients. It has wide ranging applications from (topical) burn treatments to the possibility of insulin or chemotherapy drug delivery. We are expecting the creation of a business around this technology in the next month.

"Our second case that is progressing involves a new muscle engraftment technique, that may lead to new therapies for rehabilitation of injured muscles and has the potential for use in the cardiovascular field.

"Finally we are working on reviewing the potential for starting

a small business around a series of experiments that the CU Bioserve office has developed for use in K-12 classrooms, in conjunction with the space shuttle program," he said. "These experiments are designed to stimulate young scientists' minds as well as actively participate in research occurring in near space.

Rehm said a number of other cases are currently under review.

"It's one of the most fun jobs I've ever had," Rehm said. "It's fascinating the way that everything relates to everything else. It really requires a broad background and problem-solving abilities to get through the pitfalls that might stand in the way of getting these things started."



Rehm

Rehm, who speaks French and German, as well as a little Dutch, Spanish and Russian, spent more than two years studying theoretical physics and was a design engineer at Intel Corp. before pursuing a master's degree in business administration.

He came to Boulder without a job offer specifically for the entrepreneurial business climate and soon hooked up with Bour at a Boulder Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

"I really enjoy working in Boulder," he said. "There are a bunch of very bright, very articulate and very educated serial entrepreneurs who really know how to take a raw idea and turn it into a business.

"The business climate here is fantastic."