



## BIOTECHNOLOGY (BTC)

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT, U.S. & FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2013. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

### Overview

Australia is a significant player in the global biotechnology industry. Australia has had a long, consistent tradition of excellent research and development (R&D), particularly in medicine and agriculture. The country's R&D assets are based on a high-quality science education system and expertise across a range of fields. As a result, Australia attracts a large number of major international pharmaceutical and agribusiness companies that either undertake research in Australia or enter into alliances with Australian companies and research providers.

Australia is a leading location for biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia's competitive advantage lies in the quality of its universities, which have a heavy emphasis on life sciences, and research strength in scientific, agricultural, and medical research.

Australia has 450 core biotech companies. Forty-nine percent of firms are involved in Human Therapeutics, 16 percent in Agricultural Biotechnology, and 13 percent in Diagnostics. The Australian biotechnology industry is located primarily on the eastern seaboard of Australia in the states of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

Australia is well represented internationally for its capabilities in fundamental research in biotechnology and related disciplines. Researchers in Australia have outstanding credentials and are credited with the development of penicillin, the Cochlear hearing implant, Resmed treatment of sleep apnea, Relenza flu drug, and the Gardasil cervical cancer vaccine. Australia's technology productivity is very high with a per capita patent filing rate similar to that of the U.S. Australia produces 2.5 percent of the world's published and patented research from just 0.3 percent of the world's population.

The Australian biotechnology industry focuses on partnering for both primary research and commercialization. Approximately 46 percent of firms have partnerships with firms in the United States.

### Sub-Sector Best Prospects

Australia has numerous world-class medical research organizations and the majority of biotechnology companies are involved in human therapeutics, drug discovery, and diagnostics. Australia offers excellent opportunities for international partnerships and cost-effective clinical trials.

## Web Resources

AusBiotech: <http://www.ausbiotech.org/>

U.S. Commercial Service  
Level 59, MLC Centre, Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: 02-9373-9202 | Fax: 02-9221-0573 | E: [office.australia@trade.gov](mailto:office.australia@trade.gov) | [www.export.gov/australia](http://www.export.gov/australia)