

The Future of Business in Pittsburgh

September 2022

Pittsburgh Region Awarded \$62.7 to Expand Leading Robotics Ecosystem

The Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative, which is composed of numerous organizations from the Pittsburgh region, has received a \$62.7 million federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The region is one of only 21 applicants receiving grant funding from 529 application submissions. This funding will split between five projects dedicated to enhancing the region's world-leading robotics and autonomy technology sector. These projects include:

**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
NEW ECONOMY
COLLABORATIVE**

The Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative submitted the proposal.

Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) Robotics Adoption - \$4.8 million grant bringing Pennsylvania's innovations in robotics and automation to SMEs.

Robotics Manufacturing Hub - \$14.2 million grant to de-risk the adoption of advanced robotics and automation technology by SMEs and accelerate the commercialization of robotics technologies.

Expanded Pathways to New Economy Careers - \$24.8 million grant to establish a highly coordinated upskilling system.

Robotics Startup Factory - \$12 million grant to create a globally prominent Applied Robotics Startup Factory that accelerates the formation of startups focusing on robotics and automation.

Expanded Pathways to Entrepreneurship - \$6.9 million grant to increase pathways into the robotics and autonomy industries for underrepresented populations.

Joel Reed, Executive Director of the [Pittsburgh Robotics Network](#), believes "the funding is a generational opportunity to develop the workforce needed for an emerging, new economy. Autonomous systems, or robots, are creating jobs with solutions designed to address society's most pressing problems. The New Economy Collaborative projects ensure that companies in our region will be at the forefront of adopting and implementing game-changing technology, and that we'll have a trained workforce – drawn from our diverse communities – to meet hiring needs. Pittsburgh is positioned to remain a world leader in robotics and autonomy for decades to come."

New BioManufacturing Center to Accelerate Life Sciences in Pittsburgh

ElevateBio has announced that they will locate a new biomanufacturing facility in Pittsburgh as part of a long-term strategic partnership with the University of Pittsburgh to accelerate the development of innovative cell and gene therapies through the creation of Pitt BioForge.

“This partnership between two national life-science powerhouses – the University of Pittsburgh and ElevateBio – is a consequential step forward in realizing our shared vision to make Pittsburgh a national and international biomanufacturing destination,” said Sam Reiman, Director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, whose \$100 million grant made this partnership possible. “ElevateBio could have chosen to locate its next biomanufacturing hub anywhere in the world; the fact they are choosing to come to Pittsburgh is another powerful validation of our region, and the Pitt BioForge project.”

“We’ve identified Pittsburgh as an ideal location to extend our BaseCamp presence as it sits at the intersection of science, technology, and talent,” said David Hallal, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ElevateBio.

Founded in 1787, the University of Pittsburgh is an internationally renowned leader in health sciences learning and research. A top 10 recipient of NIH funding since 1998, Pitt has repeatedly been ranked as the best public university in the Northeast, per The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education.



The Pitt BioForge will be located at Hazelwood Green.

Pittsburgh Business News and Updates

- Meta (Facebook) reveals future of realistic avatars in Pittsburgh
(<https://triblive.com/business/technology/meta-reveals-future-of-realistic-avatars-at-offices-in-pittsburgh/>)
- Bloomfield Robotics expands in Pittsburgh
(<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/inno/stories/profiles/2022/09/01/bloomfield-robotics-moves-into-lawrenceville.html>)
- Regenerative medicine company Carmell Therapeutics plans to go public
(<https://technical.ly/startups/carmell-therapeutics-go-public-fda-pittsburgh/>)
- Koop Technologies launches insurance product focused on autonomous vehicles and robotic systems (<https://www.newswire.com/news/autonomous-vehicle-insurtech-koop-technologies-launches-industry-first-21821703>)
- Astrobotic Moon rover to withstand the lunar night
(https://gizmodo.com/astrobotic-rover-nasa-moon-lunar-night-1849453596?mc_cid=7b76145651)



About Ryan

Ryan O'Shea is a JETRO Investment Advisor focused on connecting Japanese companies to opportunities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the host of Future Grind, a podcast that explores the ethics and impact of emerging science and technology, and also works with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network. In 2017, Ryan co-founded an artificial intelligence startup that was named a Top 10 team in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE. Ryan has represented NASA and CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador and serves both as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and an ambassador for Pittsburgh AI. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh & serves on the boards of multiple non-profit organizations.