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Tempe's bio innovation hub kicks off with first tenant opening

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One of the largest medical technology companies in the world has made the new IDEA Tempe campus its new home, with plans to hire more as the company grows.

BD Peripheral Intervention has leased four of six floors in the building recently completed at the Innovation, Discovery, Education and Arts campus, which encompasses about 18 acres west of the Tempe Center for the Arts on Rio Salado Parkway east of Priest Drive in Tempe.

So far, the medical device manufacturer is the only tenant in that 120,000-square-foot structure. The Boyer Co. is the developer. Okland Construction is general contractor for that project.

If others don't step forward within the next year or two, Steve Williamson, worldwide president for BD Peripheral, said he'll snatch the other two floors to make room for future growth.

Williamson said he plans to hire at least 40 people this year for various positions, including roles in regulatory, research and development, clinical trials and marketing. Of the company's 650 employees across Arizona, 450 will be based at the IDEA campus.

Many positions are technical in nature, which is why Williamson is glad to be near Arizona State University's Tempe campus.

"ASU graduates 5,000 engineers a year, and 70% stay in the Valley," Williamson said. "It's a good crop of people to choose from."

The company makes minimally invasive medical devices to diagnose and treat cancer, enable kidney dialysis treatment and treat peripheral artery disease.

BD Peripheral Intervention is a \$1.8 billion unit owned by Beckton, Dickinson and Co. (NYSE: BDX), a \$17 billion operation based in New Jersey.

Beckton, Dickson, also known as BD, purchased BD Peripheral's parent, C.R. Bard Inc., for \$24 billion in 2017.

'There's an energy'

Williamson said he's glad to be in his new digs.

"It's night and day from where we were to where we are now," he said, referring to his former Tempe offices. "There's an energy around this place," he said. "We're very proud to be the anchor store, if you will."

The company recently invited 35 physicians from across the U.S. for medical device training.

"We're proud to show them what we're working on," he said. "It's just our first step as we continue to make this a training hub as well."

Donna Kennedy, city of Tempe economic development director, said the entire IDEA campus will encompass 1 million square feet when built out.



PROVIDED BY KRIS BAXTER

One of the largest medical technology companies in the world is the first tenant at the new Innovation, Discovery, Education and Arts (IDEA) campus in Tempe.

Development of IDEA cost about \$31.50 per square foot, including the land area, to develop the structures, Kennedy said.

"We have four more buildings to remediate," she said. "It will be the showcase piece adjacent to the Tempe Center for the Arts, of which our tenants are likely to benefit from."

When BD brings in doctors in for training, it will use the theater for its training programs, she said.

"We're hoping other companies who come on board will use the whole campus as well," she said.

Angela Gonzales

Senior Reporter

Phoenix Business Journal

