

SOUTH DAKOTA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXISTING COMPANIES A SOUTH DAKOTA ADVANTAGE



DAVID URE
INANOVATE
SIOUX FALLS, SD

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While finding a cure for breast cancer is one of the major research initiatives in South Dakota, it wasn’t the only reason that locating in South Dakota made sense for David Ure, CEO of Inanovate. In South Dakota, Inanovate was able to establish partnerships with world-class research centers as well as partner with manufacturing companies to produce its product.

Inanovate is the company behind the Bio-ID, a platform technology for detecting and measuring multiple disease related biomarkers from small volumes of patient blood samples. Biomarkers are biological molecules such as proteins (molecules required for the structure, function, and regulation of the body’s tissues and organs) and DNA (genetic code material) that hold key secrets to the onset and progression of disease and effective therapies. The accurate measurement of these molecules is central to the development and implementation of new therapies and diagnostic tests.

In 2013, while Inanovate was working to develop its flagship product, Ure attended National Institute of Health’s SBIR national conference,

which was held in South Dakota that year. The company was looking for partners both to develop specific applications for the Bio-ID system, and for manufacturing components of the system. And, Ure was in luck.

At the conference, Gov. Dennis Daugaard spoke to attendees about South Dakota’s great business climate and encouraged participants to consider his state as a location for their businesses. From there, Ure was connected with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, who in turn introduced him to Sanford Research and several potential manufacturing partners.

“On my first visit to South Dakota, what hit me first was the quality of the clinical and R&D infrastructure of the State. Potential partners, collaborators, suppliers and the State’s development agencies were all readily accessible, and all brought a positive and collaborative approach to our meetings,” said Ure. “Following a number of subsequent visits,





including meeting the Governor, it became clear that for Inanovate, the life science community in South Dakota had a perfect balance of accessibility, entrepreneurial drive, and world-class talent and facilities. It ultimately was a very easy decision to locate here.”

Today, in conjunction with the Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Research Center, Inanovate is advancing the first application of the Bio-ID and developing a low-cost blood test for the monitoring and early detection of breast cancer. Sanford Research is part of Sanford Health, the largest not-for-profit rural healthcare provider in the United States.

Inanovate is also partnering with Spartan, a Watertown, S.D.-based contract manufacturing business, to manufacture the Bio-ID. Spartan specializes in contract design and manufacturing of low-to-medium volume highly complex electromechanical devices.

“Our partnership with Sanford has seen Inanovate focus the Bio-ID on addressing cancer diagnosis and monitoring. This focus has helped both energize our team and secure meaningful investment to help drive our company forward and see our first diagnostic tests launched into the clinic,” said Ure.

But that isn’t where the partnerships in South Dakota end. Inanovate is also working with South Dakota universities through the BioSystems Networks & Translational Research (BioSNTR) to expand the use of the Bio-ID technology to other applications in animals, humans and plants. Inanovate is working to identify and validate

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additional assays, and the BioSNTR analyzes the samples and delivers the results.

“With our first application now well advanced, we have been able to begin exploring additional high impact applications of the Bio-ID,” said Ure. “The collaborative network we have built in South Dakota is proving central to this expansion, and I am very excited about the next couple/few years that will see a broad operational expansion of our company and we will begin to see the impact of our technology on society.”

For more information, visit inanovate.com.

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