



Illinois, U of I launching life-sciences startup incubator in Chicago

By John Pletz April 22, 2013

The state of Illinois and the University of Illinois plan to announce a new incubator for life-sciences startups on the Illinois Medical District campus.

The incubator — called Health, Technology, Innovation at the Chicago Technology Park — will be 12,000 square feet and include laboratory and office space on the medical district campus, as the area around the University of Illinois Hospital on the West Side is known.

The announcement, planned for April 24, will be made by Gov. Pat Quinn and U of I President Robert Easter at the medical district campus. It coincides with **BIO International**, the big biotech industry conference that runs through April 25 at McCormick Place, as the state looks to showcase its life-sciences industry.

The incubator is expected to be modeled after **Enterprise Works**, a 43,000-square-foot incubator and research park on the U of I's Urbana-Champaign campus that is home to 30 tech startups, many of which are in life sciences. Tenants also include representatives from the state's biggest biosciences companies, including Abbott Laboratories and Archer Daniels Midland.

Mr. Quinn renewed his focus on the commission that runs the IMD last year after the **Illinois auditor general's office called out the agency** for being in technical default on \$40 million in bonds. Following the report, **Mr. Quinn replaced the four state-appointed members** of the IMD board and fired its executive director, appointing in his place the director of state Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Warren Ribley.
