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TECHNOLOGY

Massachusetts company brings manufacturing operations to ABQ



BioDirection President and CEO Sharad Joshi

RICH POWERS



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For Massachusetts-based BioDirection, a company working to commercialize tech for detecting injuries from trauma, Albuquerque provided an ideal labor pool.

"This is due to Intel," said Chief Scientific Officer Sergey Dryga, who said the computer chip company's semiconductor technologies have commonalities with what

BioDirection is developing. The capabilities of local universities also played a role, he said.

BioDirection's Tbit System is designed to detect and measure biomarkers released in the body following head trauma or a "jolt to the body," [a news release says](#).

The firm, founded in 2016, leased a 9,000-square-foot facility at 3841 Midway Place NE, where it plans to manufacture its medical devices. It plans to launch in the European market early next year and later in America, pending approval with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The company has hired around 12 people for the local expansion, and a couple openings remain, according to Dryga. The facility is expected to be operational within the next several months.

[Todd Strickland](#) of Albuquerque's NAI Maestas & Ward represented the tenant in the transaction, and the lease was signed in May. BioDirection moved into the space in August, according to Strickland.

Intel's growth could be an indirect catalyst for BioDirection and other local firms growing their workforces in the area, with California-based Intel [planning to bring a total of 400 new jobs to Rio Rancho](#). Its expansion followed [workforce downturn and small hiring numbers](#) in years past. Business First reported on [what Intel's expansion could mean for the area](#) in October.

Most of the research for BioDirection's trauma solution was done at the Santa Fe Business Incubator, Dryga said, adding that it also plans for research to be done in Albuquerque. The firm has raised over \$6.1 million, according to Form Ds filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Business incubators and accelerators aim to help companies grow in the state, with 80 companies having graduated from those in New Mexico in 2017, [Business First reported](#). The Santa Fe Business Incubator is the fourth-largest incubator or accelerator in the state, [according to our List](#).