



Contact: Stuart Doyle
(407) 956-5689
sdoyle@eflorida.com

New Life Sciences Council to advise Enterprise Florida on expanding industry

Members are executives from state and national life sciences organizations

ORLANDO, FL (November 9, 2007) – Life sciences business leaders will support Enterprise Florida’s efforts to expand this industry statewide by sharing their knowledge and expertise as members of the newly established Florida Life Sciences Council.

To serve as a subcommittee of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, the council will advise on key issues – e.g., climate, competition, strategic planning – relevant to business growth. In addition to board members, its makeup includes Florida executives representing state and national organizations in the life sciences field.

“The guidance of these business leaders can make a huge difference in our state’s ability to continue attracting large scale research projects, private companies and institutes,” said Governor Charlie Crist, who chairs the Enterprise Florida board. “These integral companies create educational opportunities and high wage jobs for Floridians, which is the ultimate goal of our economic development strategies.”

Leading the council will be Christopher Malter, CEO of IMC, a management consulting firm based in Weston, and Enterprise Florida board member Brian McDonald, president of BRM Group, an Oldsmar-based pharmaceutical consulting company. They will serve as co-chairmen. Member recruitment is underway, and all council terms are for two years.

“We firmly believe that Florida can build on its current successes in developing a thriving life sciences cluster, which ranks in among the nation’s top 10, by tapping into the expertise of the council members,” Malter said. “This team of advisors can better position Florida to become a major life sciences market in the U.S.”

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The Enterprise Florida board voted to establish the Life Sciences Council during its quarterly meeting held in August. The council's first meeting will be held 3:30 p.m. November 14 during at the Radisson Resort at Cape Canaveral in the Martinique Room. (A board meeting is scheduled for the following day from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Radisson Resort in Salons II and III.

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Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) is a partnership between Florida's business and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for the state of Florida. Headquartered in Orlando, EFI's mission is to diversify Florida's economy and create better-paying jobs for its citizens by supporting, attracting and helping to create businesses in innovative, high-growth industries.

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