



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monsanto's \$2.5 Million Commitment Expands BioSTL Effort to Grow St. Louis' Prosperity through Bioscience

Contribution will bolster regional prosperity through bioscience by supporting talent development & inclusion, new company formation and recruitment, and increased awareness of St. Louis as a global center for bioscience.

ST. LOUIS (March 27, 2014) — [BioSTL](#) announced today a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the [Monsanto Company](#) that will support the nonprofit's work to promote regional economic growth and advance St. Louis' standing as a leader in bioscience. Funding from Monsanto will allow BioSTL to step up its collaborative efforts to build a strong bioscience ecosystem that capitalizes on St. Louis' world-class plant and medical science strengths. The announcement came during [InvestMidwest](#) 2014, a venture capital conference that showcases 40-45 companies from throughout the Midwest in the three industry tracks of life sciences, technology, and food/ag/bioenergy.

"St. Louis is home to a unique convergence of corporate, university, and entrepreneurial strengths that place our region among the world's great bioscience centers. Monsanto has been a longtime collaborator with local universities and research institutions as well as an early supporter of regional entrepreneurial activities," said Donn Rubin, President and CEO of BioSTL. "This contribution will help to advance St. Louis' economy by further expanding the infrastructure necessary to grow St. Louis' bioscience community."

"Monsanto is proud to call St. Louis its home. The region's collection of talent, research innovation, investment capital, startups, and corporate headquarters make it the world's leading center for plant science and agricultural technology," said Dr. Robert T. Fraley, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Monsanto. "We hope our partnership with BioSTL will further enhance St. Louis' reputation as a dynamic and growing biosciences cluster."

"We see real momentum in St. Louis' innovation economy – from new startups launching to growth at the region's universities and major corporations – and BioSTL serves as a focal point for the varied resources and activities supporting bioscience entrepreneurship and industry growth," said Deborah Patterson, Monsanto's Vice President of Employee Engagement and Global Contributions. "Monsanto shares BioSTL's vision and values its role in knitting together the fabric of St. Louis' bioscience community. We look forward to continued collaboration in BioSTL's multifaceted endeavor to create jobs and grow St. Louis' economy through bioscience."

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Monsanto's contribution will support many areas of BioSTL's programming including efforts to:

- promote the regional collaboration that is critical to combining strengths to achieve regional goals and to building the trustful and cooperative environment that St. Louis' bioscience community has become known for;
- increase awareness of and build a buzz about St. Louis' strengths in bioscience among target audiences;
- promote [inclusion in bioscience](#) – helping to engage minorities and women, including scientists and entrepreneurs, in regional bioscience efforts;
- increase the availability of investment capital for St. Louis startups by growing investor awareness and cultivating new sources of capital for St. Louis companies;
- bolster St. Louis' capacity to attract and retain a quality, diverse workforce and to build the region's population of experienced entrepreneurs to lead emerging startups; and
- generate new successful, sustainable bioscience startups in the St. Louis region through BioSTL's subsidiary, the [BioGenerator](#), which provides pre-seed and seed investment funds, shared lab space with specialized equipment, and strategic support and access to networks to emerging bioscience startups. Since its inception, BioGenerator has helped launch 42 new seed and pre-seed stage startups in the St. Louis area.

[Benson Hill](#), an agricultural biotechnology company that recently expanded to [BRDG Park](#) in St. Louis from North Carolina, is one of the innovative companies already benefiting from support of BioSTL and BioGenerator. "BioSTL and BioGenerator have demonstrated significant support for our company and our mission," said Matthew B. Crisp, President and CEO of Benson Hill Biosystems, Inc. "This commitment by Monsanto will help to further strengthen the early-stage biosciences community in St. Louis."

About BioSTL

BioSTL advances St. Louis' prosperity by cultivating a thriving bioscience sector. BioSTL, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, builds regional capacity, nurtures a collaborative environment, and focuses community leadership and resources to capitalize on the unique convergence of St. Louis' corporate, university, and entrepreneurial strengths in medical and plant bioscience.

To achieve St. Louis' potential in the high-growth bioscience industry, BioSTL has organized business, university, and philanthropic leaders around a set of deliberate strategies focused on: new company creation and entrepreneur support (through the BioGenerator); company attraction (U.S. and international); improving access to investment capital (public, angel, and venture capital); ensuring appropriate physical infrastructure (labs, incubators, and research districts); government relations and public policy (federal, state, and local); fostering an inclusive pipeline of entrepreneurs; and communicating the region's strengths.

BioGenerator, BioSTL's nonprofit subsidiary, creates, funds, and grows promising new enterprises. BioGenerator has launched and invested in over 40 companies, which have raised over \$150 million in additional funding, and was named a "Best Practice in the Western Hemisphere" by the Organization of American States.

Please visit www.biostl.org for additional information. Twitter: [@BioSTL](#). Facebook: [BioSTL](#).

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About Monsanto Company

Monsanto Company is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. Monsanto remains focused on enabling both small-holder and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of our world's natural resources such as water and energy. To learn more about Monsanto's business and their commitments, please visit www.monsanto.com. Follow Monsanto on Twitter® at www.twitter.com/MonsantoCo, on the company blog, *Beyond the Rows*, at www.monsantoblog.com, or subscribe to Monsanto's [News Release RSS Feed](#).

Contact:

StandPoint Public Affairs:

Mack A. Bradley

(314) 324-8567

mack@standpointpa.com

BioSTL:

Ben Johnson

(314) 497-8985

bjohnson@biostl.org