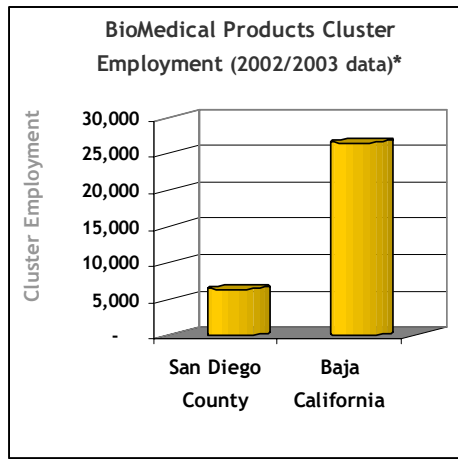


Crossborder Innovation & Competitiveness Initiative

Quick Facts: *The San Diego-Baja California Biomedical Products Industry*

Introduction

- San Diego Dialogue’s *Crossborder Innovation & Competitiveness Initiative* is dedicated to exploring how the San Diego-Baja California region can become more globally competitive in key science and technology sectors by leveraging opportunities across our border. Such opportunities potentially exist both in terms of crossborder research partnerships, and by connecting San Diego and Baja California in high value-added economic clusters that link regional R&D capabilities to manufacturing and service industries in our region.



- The concept of promoting the development of regional employment clusters has driven much of San Diego’s recent economic development activities, with leadership from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Yet, as noted by Harvard economist Michael Porter, “Better linkages with Mexico would spur the growth of a number of industries and clusters in San Diego.”
- As seen at right, the number of employees working for biomedical products companies on both sides of our border is impressive. However, this cluster’s employment growth in San Diego between 1995-2002 has been relatively weak - perhaps underscoring an opportunity for collaboration.

Additional Considerations for Crossborder Biomedical Products Linkages

- While the number of FDA-registered off-shore medical device manufacturing facilities is growing (and rose to nearly 9,000 by August of 2003), much of the growth is occurring outside of the North American region - countries such as China, Korea, Brazil, Australia, and Pakistan, among others.
- Yet, already more than 208 FDA-registered medical device manufacturing facilities currently operate in Mexico (an increase of 12.4% over 2002 figures). As seen in the map at right, one of the highest concentrations of such companies is in neighboring Baja California.
- In fact, recent research indicates that of the nearly 60 biomedical product companies operating in Baja California (most of them device manufacturers or kit assemblers), approximately one-third have either a San Diego headquarters or a related subsidiary. These crossborder biomedical product firms include Alaris Medical Systems, Breg, Continental Laboratory Products, DJ Orthopedics, and Sunrise Medical, among others.

