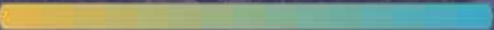




FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL-AUGUST 11, 2026

Innosphere Updates



Mike Freeman | CEO, Innosphere / ASCEND Engine

ABOUT US

Innosphere

Colorado's venture development organization - turning discovery into companies, capital, and jobs.

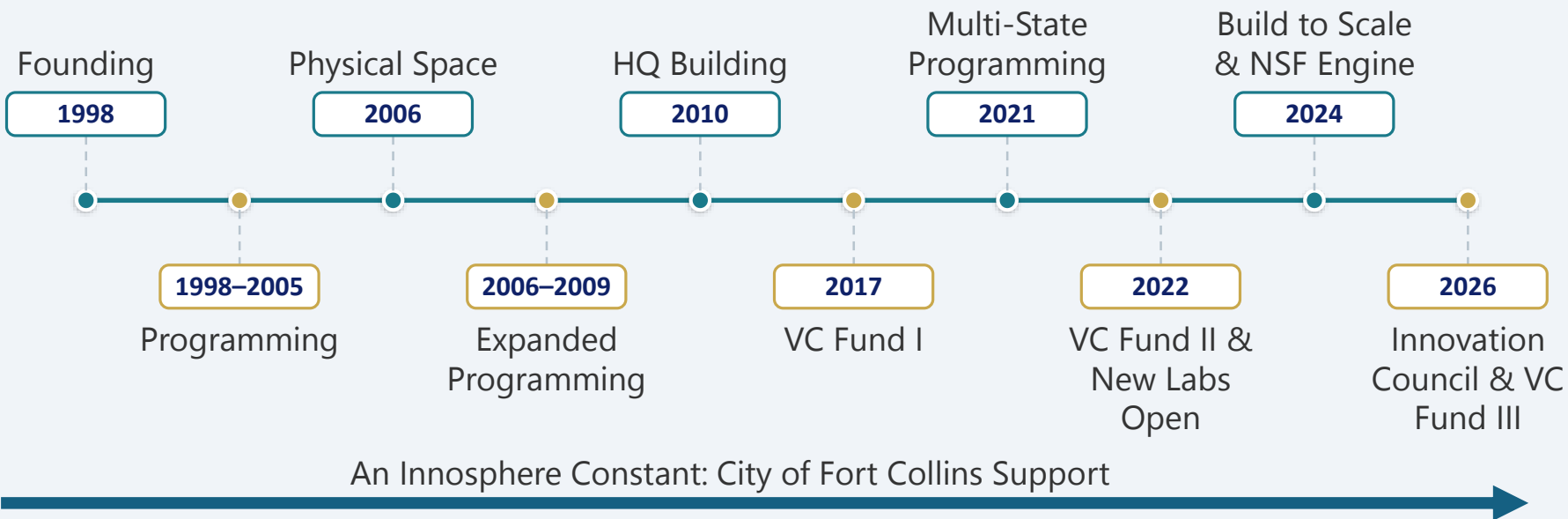
The City of Fort Collins has provided consistent support to Innosphere from conception to today. This funding is critically important for the future sustainability of the Life Sciences Accelerator.

Innosphere Fort Collins Ecosystem Building: Supporting FC Start Up Week 2027 and NOCO BIO COMM, hosted Innovation After Hours in Fort Collins, transition to FC Connexion.



THE JOURNEY

28 Years of Building Colorado's Innovation Ecosystem from Fort Collins



Innosphere Programs

Accelerators

Life Sciences & ASCEND Technologies

Expert-led accelerators move IP from the lab to the market. Structured curriculum covers fundraising, IP strategy, and customer acquisition. Fort Collins funding supports inclusion of local companies in accelerator programming.

Venture Capital

Pre-Seed & Seed

Investing in science and technology ventures. Innosphere Fund I & Fund II. Upcoming Innosphere Fund III, a revolving debt fund, and an impact fund for the Global South go-to-market.

Specialized Facilities

Office, Lab & Co-Working Space

Purpose-built office and wet lab space in Northern Colorado for deep-tech and life sciences companies. Working on Boulder labs, 232 Vine Drive expansion.

NSF ASCEND Engine

Federally Backed Regional Innovation Network

Advancing Sensing and Computation for Environmental Decision-Making. A federally backed engine serving research and startup community in Colorado and Wyoming.

Over a Decade of Impact

VENTURE ACCELERATED.

\$3.6B

Capital Raised

by Innosphere companies

\$300M

Revenue Generated

from graduated companies

400+

Graduated
Companies

across all programs

2,000+

Jobs Created

*full-time and part-time
positions*

2025 Outcomes

VENTURE ACCELERATED.

\$227.4M

Capital Raised

By Fund companies

\$60.9M

Revenue Generated

from graduated companies

100+

Companies
Supported

across all programs

143

Jobs Created

full- and part-time positions

Fort Collins Impact

At-A-Glance

\$59.6M

2025 Revenue

from 22 tenant companies

57

2025 New Employees
(FTE)

*46% increase YoY among
tenants*

\$4M

2025 Capital Raised

*Fort Collins-based
accelerator clients*

\$1.36M

CSU Subawards

*via the NSF ASCEND
Engine, Years 1-3*



Innosphere Labs & Office

Innovation Infrastructure

Innosphere Office and Lab

Tenant Impact

- 181 total employees (FTE)
- 128 employees based in Innosphere building
- 22 total tenant companies
- \$6.2M capital raised in 2025
- 13 patents filed in 2025

Opportunity

- Vine Innovation Corridor (232 E. Vine)





Innosphere Accelerators

Program Information

The Innosphere Approach

A proven 8-month accelerator experience



Dedicated Client Director

Each company is assigned a personal point of contact with deep experience in commercialization.



Specialized Facility Access

Wet lab space available for rent. Real-world environmental testing with use case feedback for refinement for ASCEND technologies.



Expert Workshops

Curriculum based on 28 years of Innosphere's proven model — primarily Zoom with select in-person sessions.



Mastermind Sessions

4 cohort-specific sessions per track for peer learning, subject-matter discussion, and problem solving.



Investor Presentations

Formalized investor presentation opportunities with pitch coaching and partner network access.



National Recognition

Connection with an organization with national reach and networks.

Fort Collins-Based Accelerator Outcomes

2025 Cohorts Results

- 5 local companies
- 6 new employees
- \$4M capital raised
- 7 patents filed





Innosphere Accelerators

Companies Supported in Fort Collins

RedDrop Dx

Kris Buchanan, Local Founder · Fort Collins HQ · Life Sciences Incubator · Innosphere Fund

\$7M+ Raised **12** Employees

WHAT THEY DO

RedDrop Dx makes an at-home, virtually pain-free blood-sampling device.

THE TECHNOLOGY

- Micro-needling
- 1-step activation
- Telehealth & at-home testing

LOCAL IMPACT

- Healthcare innovation direct to patients' homes
- High-tech life sciences jobs rooted in Fort Collins
- Part of Colorado's \$3.2B life sciences momentum in 2025



Burst Diagnostics

Dr. Chuck Henry, Local Founder · Fort Collins HQ · Life Sciences Incubator ·
Innosphere Fund · Innosphere Tenant

\$2.4M

Raised

5

Employees

WHAT THEY DO

Makes a device for simple, accurate quantitative testing — lab-grade results at home or at the point of care.

THE TECHNOLOGY

- One-step sampling
- Microfluidics wash & amplify samples
- Chemiluminescent signal detection with reader

LOCAL IMPACT

- Health innovation for lab-grade at-home
- & point-of-care testing
- High-tech jobs rooted in Fort Collins
- Licensing technology from CSU



MOLA Biotechnologies

Rich Gonzales, CEO/Ray Goodrich, CTO · Relocated to Fort Collins · Life Sciences Incubator · Innosphere Lab Tenant

WHAT THEY DO

Developing a global blood safety platform for use in blood banks and hospitals to prevent transfusion transmitted diseases and complications from transfusion

THE TECHNOLOGY

- Illumination device
- Disposable consumable
- Use in settings where other blood safety measures are not feasible.

LOCAL IMPACT

- Relocated from TX to CO:
 - Ready-use lab facility
 - Employment pipeline
- CSU license
- Part of Colorado's \$3.2B life sciences momentum in 2025

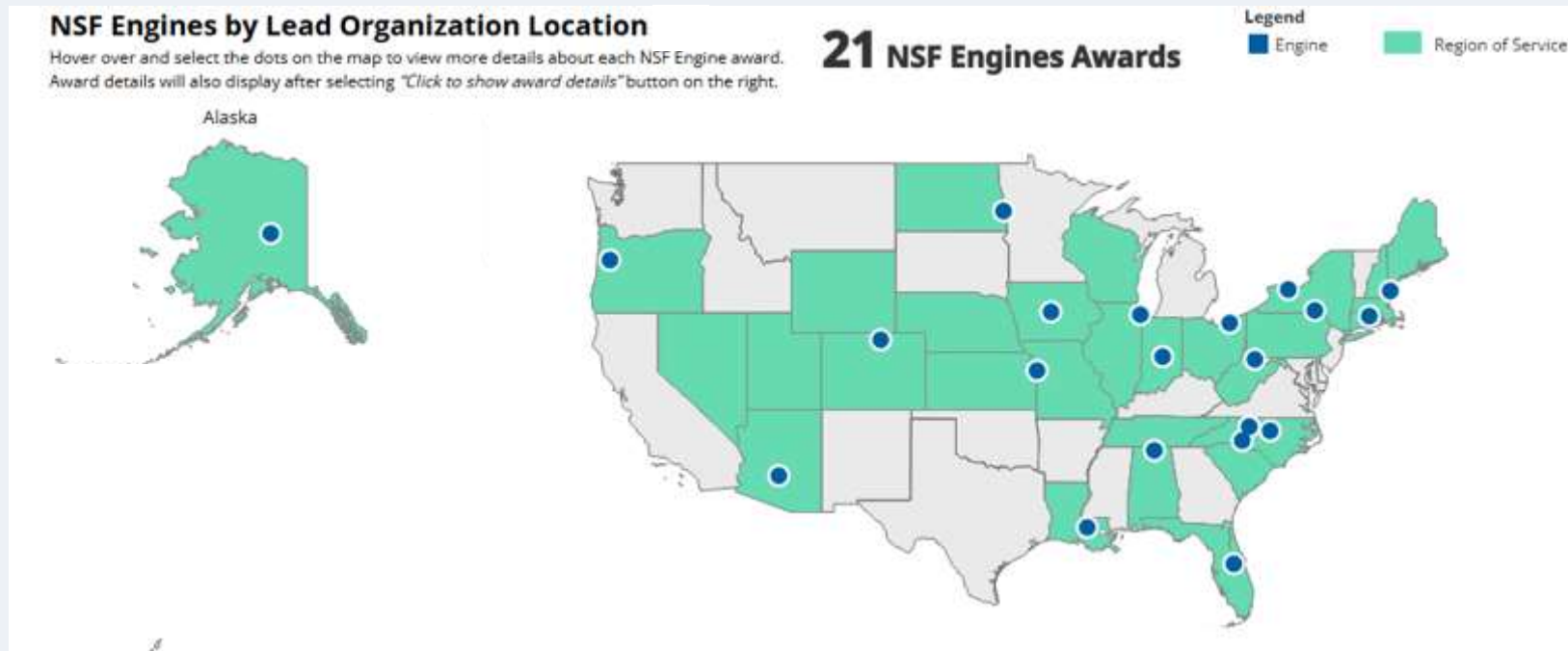




NSF ASCEND Engine in Colorado & Wyoming

Program Information

National Innovation Network



The Challenge

Colorado & Wyoming face intensifying environmental threats — communities need better tools to prepare, respond, and adapt.



Wildfires

Intensifying fire seasons threaten power, water, air quality, and community safety across the region.



Drought & Water Stress

Prolonged drought impacts agriculture, soil health, and downstream water quality.



Extreme Weather

Complex mountain terrain creates unpredictable wind patterns that challenge existing sensor networks.



Soil Degradation

Poor soil health undermines the agricultural economy and reduces the land's capacity to retain water.

Tools for environmental decision-making



ARID

A digital simulation platform for high-resolution wildfire risk to power and water utilities.



SHIELD

A distributed testbed for soil-health innovation.



Extreme Weather Prediction - 2027

High-resolution weather prediction for hail and wildfire smoke.

Local Spotlight

Poudre River Water Quality

- Machine learning to forecast water quality
 - Post-wildfire
- Collaboration between CSU and CU
- Advanced Water Testing
 - **Old:** slow, infrequent, expensive
 - **New:** instant, frequent, inexpensive
- NSF ASCEND Engine Grant Awardee
- IMPACT: improves water treatment plans, and guides watershed management



THE FUTURE OF WATER: HOW PREDICTIVE SCIENCE IS CHANGING RIVER MANAGEMENT IN COLORADO

A multi-institutional collaboration is pairing novel sensors with river-wide monitoring networks to give water managers unprecedented, real-time insight into water quality.

Local Spotlight

Wildfire Smoke Prediction

- Deep-learning models forecast wildfire smoke
 - Gives schools, event planners, and cities time to act before smoke arrives
- 25 low-cost “AirPen” sensors deployed along the Front Range, Cheyenne to Pueblo
- Collaboration between CSU researchers and corporate partner NVIDIA
- IMPACT: earlier, more accurate public health decisions — reducing smoke exposure and the economic toll of hazardous air quality days



**BEFORE THE HAZE ARRIVES:
CSU'S RADSENSE PROJECT IS
FORECASTING WILDFIRE SMOKE
IN REAL TIME**

**CSU team uses deep-learning to better
protect public health**

Local Impact & Opportunities

Impact

- 19 Fort Collins-based Engine employees, in addition to part-time associates and CSU undergrad interns
- \$1.36M in subawards to Colorado State University
- 100+ students have completed CSU's Foundations of Systems Engineering course

Opportunities

- Including Fort Collins Utilities & PRPA + ASCEND ARID program
- Actively support of Fort Collins Climate Action Plan through advanced data and analytics



Source: Fort Collins Coloradoan



Opportunities

Deepening the Innosphere Relationship

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY

- Advance the Vine Innovation Corridor:
 - Future development of 232 E. Vine
- Including Fort Collins Utilities & PRPA + ASCEND ARID program
- Actively support of Fort Collins Climate Action Plan through advanced data and analytics
- Coordination for advanced industries, recruitment in Fort Collins

Next Steps: Additional input from City Staff and City Council

