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BioInspire Comes To Life, Helps Five Companies Grow & Develop Medical Devices and Products

*Unique Partnership Between Plaza Companies, City of Peoria and BioAccel
Opens Doors and Earns Acclaim in First Few Weeks*

PEORIA, Arizona (October 17, 2012) — It takes a lot to impress a former head of state.

But BioInspire, a newly opened incubator for companies that make medical devices, did just that for former Mexican President Vicente Fox when he visited the facility in September.

Fox was one of the first people to tour the innovative wet lab incubator center and to understand BioInspire's resources and expertise to develop new medical devices and grow their companies. And he was impressed enough that he pledged to introduce companies in Mexico to the concept.

It's indicative of a strong start for the Peoria, Arizona-based facility, which is a joint effort between Plaza Companies, the City of Peoria and BioAccel. The Plaza Del Rio campus is the home of BioInspire, which received economic development funds from the City, is operated by BioAccel and is the brainchild of the City of Peoria Economic Development Office and Sharon Harper, the President and CEO of Plaza Companies..

It is a unique partnership that is already showing positive results in the creation of new jobs in the area and in positioning Peoria and the West Valley as a hub for innovation and technology.

Sharon Harper, President & CEO of Plaza Companies, said the goal of BioInspire is to help start-up companies in the competitive field of medical device innovative gain a competitive edge.

"If we can help companies in this industry succeed, it will create a ripple effect that will be very positive for our community," she said. "These companies will help bring more jobs and more innovation to the area, which will promote a stronger economy. And they will help us position the greater Phoenix area as a true hub for the medical community."

The five companies already operating at BioInspire include:

- Arizona Medical Systems, which is developing groundbreaking products for vascular and cardiovascular procedures.
- Hildeez, which is developing garments to assist in recovery from knee and joint replacements.
- Kulitra, a company that is creating new products for improved surgical pathology.

- Nasseo, which has developed a highly improved dental implant for bonding to the bone in major dental procedures.

- Yolia Health, which has created new technology for treating vision disorders.

Tom Rainey, Director of BioInspire, said the companies are making great use of the support resources BioInspire is providing.

“We are providing them with the opportunity to tap into business, marketing, research and development and other resources that give them the best chance for success,” Rainey said. “We believe we have put them on track to grow more effectively and bring their groundbreaking technologies to the marketplace.”

Harper said that BioInspire can serve as a blueprint for creative use of medical office space and how to effectively work to create economic development in the medical field.

“Health care is going to become more and more important in the coming years as government reforms come online and as our population ages,” she said. “Companies that can truly innovate in the medical field will have a great chance for success. Our goal is to create an innovative environment that allows these kinds of companies to grow and to dramatically impact our communities. This has positively impacted our buildings and our physician tenants as well.”

BioInspire’s mission is to become Arizona’s premier incubator of companies developing medical devices. BioInspire, operated by BioAccel, offers first-class working space, technical/business assistance and collaborative opportunities. Unique to BioInspire is its focus on medical devices and, most importantly, that qualified tenants, through BioAccel’s commercialization programs, may receive up to \$300,000 for working capital and/or free or greatly reduced rent. The goal of the facility is to enable companies to validate their technologies through proof of concept, thereby facilitating their growth. For more information on BioInspire, visit its web site at www.bioinspire.org.

Plaza Companies, with office locations in Peoria and Scottsdale, Arizona, is an award-winning leader in the development and management of medical office properties, technology and bioscience facilities, and senior housing communities. Founded in 1982, Plaza Companies is a full service firm with a portfolio of more than 5.5 million square feet valued at more than \$1 billion. For more information about Plaza Companies, visit www.theplazaco.com.



Sharon Harper, President and CEO, Plaza Companies
Vicente Fox, Former President of Mexico
MaryAnn Guerro, CEO, BioAccel
Scott Whyte, Director of Economic Development, City of Peoria