

MODENA: Biomedical Industry



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AZIENDA SPECIALE PER
L'INTERNAZIONALIZZAZIONE
Camera di Commercio di Modena

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Among the sectors of specialization of Modena's economy, the biomedical industrial system represents a sector of excellence with unique characteristics in the Italian district scenario. Concentrated in eight municipalities in the Mirandola area, sector businesses are characterized by a type of product with a highly innovative content compared to conventional Made in Italy sectors. Mirandola's biomedical system is third in the world only to that of Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

The birth of the biomedical system in Modena can be traced back to the first half of the 1960s, with the introduction in Italy of the first sterile disposable component for hospital use and its later diffusion. Again in the first half of the 1960s, the first Italian artificial kidney was manufactured in Mirandola.

Production currently centers on a dozen or so leading medium – large enterprises, most of which, following takeover and merger processes, are connected to multinationals or large Italian groups. Alongside these businesses, the sector also has fifty or so small businesses that build **highly sophisticated products** to order or bearing its own brand. There are also a number of small artisan firms that mainly perform work to order, cutting, moulding and assembling primarily plastic devices.

The products manufactured by this complex productive system can be primarily attributed to **heart surgery equipment and accessories, dialysis** and the treatment



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of other medical conditions, as well as **disposable plastic devices** used primarily for dialysis and for other medical uses.

The biomedical district counts **about 100 businesses**, with total occupation of **over 3,300 employees**. Total turnover amounts to about **700 million Euros**, whilst exports account for approximately 40% of the total. The main areas of destination for exports are European countries with a share of the total equal to 70% (estimate 2014)

2015 also saw the birth of “**Technopole**” of Mirandola, a place of research and innovation committed to the competitive growth and development of the attractiveness against young talents and scientific expertise. **Three research laboratories (toxicology, cell biology and sensors)**, twenty people and activity-oriented biomedical not excluding that two closely related areas, ICT and mechanics, two sectors that, with the skills that are in able to express, have had and still have a decisive role in the affirmation of biomedical valley.

The Technopole is also the gateway to all the skills expressed by the High Technology Network of Emilia Romagna, operates in conjunction with the Health provincial and regional level, in connection with national and international networks. Therefore represents a unique system in Emilia Romagna, among the few in Italy, organized on an integrated model of research, training, business incubation and advanced services.

