What’s Happening Now

During the Great Recession when the tumbling of iconic economic strongholds shook the whole of the nation, Arizona was incubating Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) and forging a new economic foundation, strengthened by the diversity and nature of its industries and investments.

SFAz’s approach of investing in those industries that will rule the 21st century is demonstrating enormous results and economic returns, providing the opportunity to create a new, enduring economic model that positions Arizona as a global leader.

Arizona’s Opportunity

Founded in 2006, Science Foundation Arizona was formed by a pioneering mandate from the State’s political, education, business and philanthropic leadership to create a unique public-private investment vehicle, leveraging Arizona’s special strengths for building a world-renowned technology, research and health-based economy.

Engaging the brightest minds from around the globe, SFAz identified fields such as modern mining, cybersecurity, healthcare and personalized medicine, aerospace and defense, data and IT, and clean energy through technology as areas of great economic importance and potential for Arizona. More than $70 million has been invested in research in these and other scientific and engineering areas since 2007.

In the short term, investments have already netted powerful results:

- **207** patents filed or issued
- **23** technology licenses filed
- **1,865** new jobs
- **24** new companies

For the long term, these and other new investments fortify Arizona to be a viable competitor in the future economy. In 2014, Forbes named its top “$10+ Billion Big Industries of the Future.” On the list was the internet of things, with a prediction that by 2020, 26 billion devices will be ready for networking. Also cited is the 3D printing revolution and solar energy. Rounding out Forbes’ top 10 is smartdust, programmable matter and nanotechnology, which have the power to revolutionize pharmaceuticals and medicine in general, as well as how we dress, and even how we drive.

SFAz has invested either directly or through related interests in each of these markets predicted to become multi-billion dollar industries, creating a magnet for new and expanding industry.

With each issue of “SFAz: Arizona’s Advantage,” we invite you to learn about SFAz’s results and how by working together, we’re building a future-focused economy for our state.