INNOVATION LEADER

Ohio

Putting out a welcome mat for tech entrepreneurs

Ohio improved its status on the 2018 Innovation Scorecard from Innovation Adopter to Innovation Leader thanks in part to an open-arms policy to various disruptive technologies. From 2016 to 2017, the number of jobs in emerging technology industries such as drones and artificial intelligence spiked by more than 50 percent.

In 2016, the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission began testing the use of drones during bridge inspections. The agency lauded the potential for the move cut back on inspection costs and make the process safer for inspectors.

At a lower altitude, Intel subsidiary Wind River announced plans to partner with the Ohio State University, the city of Dublin and the Transportation Research Center to speed along testing of self-driving vehicles. The partnership will start with testing at the Research Center's 4,500-acre test course, with the aim of improving the quality of self-driving vehicles and reducing the amount of time it takes to make them road-ready.

In Columbus, sensors and cameras installed throughout the city will infuse the city with the infrastructure needed to sustain a connected car system. Some of the sensors will be used in a smart intersection to spot people within a defined perimeter, then send that information to vehicles within the perimeter equipped with vehicle-to-infrastructure technology — helping prevent collisions with pedestrians, cyclists or other vehicles. In the Easton neighborhood, plans to deploy a fleet of self-driving vehicles are already underway.

Sources: (Cision) (State Scoop) (Columbus Business Journal) (Trucking Info)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Roughly 39 jobs per 1,000 people in Ohio are in a tech field, a higher proportion than several other midwestern states.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Ohio can pass a Right-to-Work law and legislation codifying protections for workers from discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

The state passed legislation to create a smart transportation advisory committee and allow drone use without burdensome rules.

Best & Brightest	D
Fast Internet	C
Grants Advanced Degrees	C+
Tech Workforce	B
Tax Friendly	C-
Attracts Investment	B
Entrepreneurial Activity	B
Ridesharing	A
Short-Term Rentals	B
Sustainable Policies	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	A

Self-Driving Vehicles

A new bill established a smart transportation advisory committee. Partially self-driving vehicles are already in use in cities including Columbus.

Entrepreneurial Activity

Small businesses in the state created a net of about 59 jobs per 1,000 residents between Q2/2011 and Q4/2016, for a total of 679,312 jobs.

Tech Workforce

Ohio counts approximately 39 technology jobs per 1,000 residents in its workforce.

Attracts Investment

Ohio lured less than $25 per capita in venture capital spending but invested more than $778 per capita in research and development.

In Local Expansion, International Innovators sets Their Sights on Columbus

The global tech business is making a local impact in Columbus, where the consulting firm Accenture will open a new innovation hub.

The center promises 200 new high-tech jobs and an expanded apprenticeship program that will offer training to under-represented groups to enable them to take positions in the digital economy. Accenture already employs more than 750 people in Columbus, and its newest center is the third of 10 new innovation facilities it plans to build across the country.

City leaders lauded the expansion as a boon for the city. "We are thrilled to see Accenture expand its commitment to the Columbus business and technology community with a new innovation hub," said Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "And we are equally pleased by the opportunities they are bringing to our highly skilled workforce, with 200 jobs and much-needed apprenticeships."

The hub will be located in Columbus' popular Arena District.

Sources: (10TV) (Business Wire) (Accenture)