

MONTANA

INNOVATIVE BY *NATURE*

FDI INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT PHOTONICS & OPTICS

Southwestern Montana has the highest per capita concentration of optics and photonics firms in the nation. Montana-based firms and researchers from Montana State University (MSU) have expertise in a wide range of applications, from remote sensing for autonomous vehicles and defense applications to bio research and medical imaging. The innovation and workforce development engine is centered in Bozeman with PhD, master's, and bachelor's programs at MSU, and a 2-year associate's program in photonics and laser tech at MSU-affiliated Gallatin College.

Recognizing this critical mass, expertise, and potential for growth, Montana earned an official US Economic Development Administration Tech Hub designation in 2023.

A recent partnership was announced between Montana State University and the University of Arkansas, creating the MonArk Quantum Foundry. Supported by the National Science Foundation, this partnership will accelerate the development of quantum materials and devices.



PHOTONICS & OPTICS

CASE STUDY: BRIDGER PHOTONICS, INC

"It is fulfilling to spend our days as part of an amazing team, in a beautiful place, creating technology with meaningful impacts for both industry and society." - Pete Roos, CEO



INVESTOR Germany
MONTANA HOME Bozeman
FOUNDED 2006

Bridger Photonics, Inc (Bridger) creates disruptive LiDAR solutions that are transforming the oil & gas and industrial metrology industries. In 2018, Bridger announced Series A minority-share investment from Zeiss Ventures. Adding to their core metrology products, 2019 saw the commercial release of Bridger's Gas Mapping LiDARTM (GML) technology as a service for the oil & gas industry. Prior to COVID-19, Bridger's GML revenues had more than doubled in each of the five quarters since its release. Bridger's GML is reducing the cost of methane emissions reductions, while at the same time improving the safety and operational efficiency of the Oil & Gas industry throughout the entire natural gas value chain. GML was awarded an R&D 100 award in 2019, recognizing the technology as one of the top innovations in the world that year.

DISCOVER WHAT MANY OTHERS ALREADY HAVE ABOUT MONTANA

- Top five state for shortest average commute time
- No general sales tax, creating one of the best business tax climates in the nation
- Top ten state to start a small business
- Highly trained, loyal workforce keeps recruitment costs low
- Consistently ranked one of the best states to live in



FACTS AT A GLANCE



Cutting-edge
photonics & optics
research
emanating from

Montana
State
University

One of the
Highest concentrations of
photonics & optics
companies
in the US

40+ photonics and optics
companies clustered
around Bozeman, MT

1000 employees working in
the photonics & optics
industry in Montana

2022
Coherent Laser Radar
Conference held in
Big Sky, Montana

20,000 ft²
of high-security Applied
Research Lab space for defense
technology R&D, located in an
Opportunity Zone