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business

## 2 Colorado firms join new Wyo. tech center

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Two Colorado businesses are benefiting from the University of Wyoming's latest efforts to grow its technology sector.

Littleton-based ADA Technologies and Denver-based Thought Equity have expanded their operations, opening offices at the university's Laramie-based Wyoming Technology Business Center.

The center is an incubator designed to house and share services among early-stage technology companies in a 30,000- square-foot, \$12 million facility. More than \$5 million of those funds came from the state.

Since February, nine companies have moved into the center, bringing 65 employees. The center celebrated its grand opening Saturday and is already at capacity.

ADA Technologies, focused on instruments that can help detect explosives, expanded to Laramie at the request of one manager. Kent Henry, head of the company's instrumentation and sensors group, had a "strong desire" to return to Laramie, where he had lived for eight years, said Cliff Brown, ADA's president.

"It was the right opportunity with the Technology Business Center and our desire to get raw material input from the university to feed our development and commercialization business model," he said.

ADA has 35 employees in Littleton and one person - Henry - in Laramie but plans to add six employees there within the next year, Brown said.

Thought Equity offers film licensing and management services to companies and had operations in Laramie for three years. In August the company moved its "video refinery" to the incubator, where 35 employees digitally master hours of film footage and distribute it through the company's website.

The company has 22 workers in Denver, mostly management executives. It also has offices in New York, Tokyo and Los Angeles, employing a total of 75.

"By locating our refinery in the Wyoming Technology Business Center, we've been able to scale our company faster ... taking advantage of the technological infrastructure the state has to offer," said Kevin Schaff, Thought Equity founder and chief executive.

"Wyoming's highly skilled workforce is brought together through the significant bandwidth available in the state," said Schaff, who is a graduate of the university.

Officials for the university said the incubator isn't trying to lure businesses from Colorado and didn't actively recruit ADA or Thought Equity.

"We're not going out to get companies, we're just taking people who are interested," said Jonathon Benson, chief executive of the Wyoming Technology Business Center. "Typically there's a Wyoming connection."

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