Strengths

Educational Institutions: The I-94 Corridor is home to three University of Wisconsin campuses and two technical colleges. The Chippewa Valley Initiative, a joint venture between UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout, is designed to enhance and expand high-tech academic programs. The Chippewa Valley Technical College and UW-Eau Claire have partnered to provide a downlink site to the National Technological University. UW-River Falls offers consultation services and incubator space for biotechnology companies. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College also has sites in New Richmond and Hudson.

Workforce: The region guarantees a highly-trained and experienced workforce. The western half of the region is largely populated by people who commute to the Twin Cities. Many of these commuters are employed in professional or technology-related fields and would welcome the opportunity to work in high-tech businesses closer to home.

Transportation: The area is served by an excellent system of highways, including Interstate 94, the economic corridor linking the Twin Cities to Madison and Milwaukee. The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport daily freight and passenger service. The region is only 30 minutes from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, headquarters of Northwest Airlines. Union Pacific and Canadian National Railway provide access to the nation’s rail network.

Quality of Life: This region has low crime rates, relatively moderate housing prices, good air and water quality, good cultural and recreational opportunities.

Clusters

The following high-technology clusters have been identified in the I-94 Corridor Technology Zone:

- Computer & Electronic Technologies
- Materials Technologies/Plastics
- Telecommunications & Utilities
- Automation & Precision Fabrication
- Medical Technology & Devices
- Information Technologies
- Machinery, Equipment & Electrical
- Biotechnology

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I-94 Corridor Technology Zone Website: Coming Soon!