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A WINNING CONTRACT



Nick Green
CEO
Avid Bioservices

PHOTO CREDIT: AVID

Avid's existing facilities in Tustin

Avid Bioservices' Corporate Refocus, Local Investments Paying Off

By AUDREY KEMP

Avid Bioservices Inc. earlier this month said it's investing up to \$75 million in a "world-class" manufacturing plant at a Costa Mesa building next to John Wayne Airport to enter the cell and gene therapy market.

It's the latest sign of growth from the Tustin-based drug manufacturer (Nasdaq: CDMO), which in the last four years has rebranded, shifted its business focus, hired new executives and extensively renovated its existing operations on Myford Avenue, near the

Special Report

Fastest-Growing Public Companies
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Santa Ana (5) Freeway. "It's an evolving story, one step at a time," Chief Executive **Nick Green** told the Business Journal during an hour-long tour of its existing facilities, about 5 miles away

► *Avid Bioservices 16*



CEO Susan Brennan leading electric battery push for commercial vehicles

Romeo Power Brings 250+ Workers to OC

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: New Cypress HQ runs 215K SF

By KEVIN COSTELLOE

Romeo Power Inc., a battery maker for commercial electric vehicles valued at more than \$650 million, will soon be moving more than 250 employees and its headquarters from Los Angeles to Cypress, in the latest sign of Orange County's growing stature as an EV hub.

"We are growing rapidly as the electrification of transportation continues to progress," Romeo Chief Executive **Susan Seilheimer Brennan** told the Business Journal.

► *Romeo 37*

Youth Served On Rivian Exec Team

IPO: 39 average age at EV maker; seasoned board

By KARI HAMANAKA

Rivian's R1T pickup truck, which began deliveries a month ago, is the newest electric vehicle to hit the U.S. automotive market this year.

The R1T is certainly not the only thing trending young at the closely watched Irvine EV maker, whose forthcoming initial public offering is expected to vault the company to the top of the list of the most valuable public companies in Orange County.

With an average age of 39, the three-person executive team of Rivian also stands out for its youth.

It's among the youngest average age seen for an executive team of a larger-sized business preparing to go public since the 2012 IPO of **Facebook** (Nasdaq: FB).

Mark Zuckerberg (then 27) and his team averaged 38 years of age at the time of its IPO, according to

► *Rivian 48*



Claire McDonough
CFO
Rivian

Lyon's Legacy Lives on Via Workforce Academy

NONPROFITS: Orangewood program a 'win-win' for OC

By KATIE MURAR

Real estate firms, listen up: there's a new lead in town to help with your labor shortage problem.

With seed funding from the family of one of OC's real estate legends, the late **Gen. William Lyon**, as well as **Frank Suryan Jr.**, partner in **Lyon Living**, nonprofit **Orangewood Foundation** is rolling out a new program that pairs disadvantaged young adults in apprenticeship opportunities with local construction firms and other companies.



Cassandra Williams
CEO
A-Tech Consulting

The program, called the **General William Lyon Workforce Academy**, will teach

trade skills to young adults looking for a career path, and provide a new source of dedicated employees for companies looking to give back to the community.

"This program is a great way to honor my dad, who was always looking for ways to support foster youths and help them break out of the cycle," said **Bill H. Lyon**, son of the General, who was pivotal in establishing the first Orangewood facility in 1980.

Gen. Lyon, founder of Newport Beach's **William Lyon Homes**, died in May 2020, at the age of 97.

Missing Middle

Orangewood Foundation is a nonprofit that provides services to teens and young

► *Lyon Academy 20*



P. 4 FITNESS: Augie Nieto-backed Life Fitness invests in local wellness firm

P. 49 LEADER BOARD: Human Options' CEO on combating domestic violence

THE LIST

FASTEST-GROWING PUBLIC COMPANIES
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