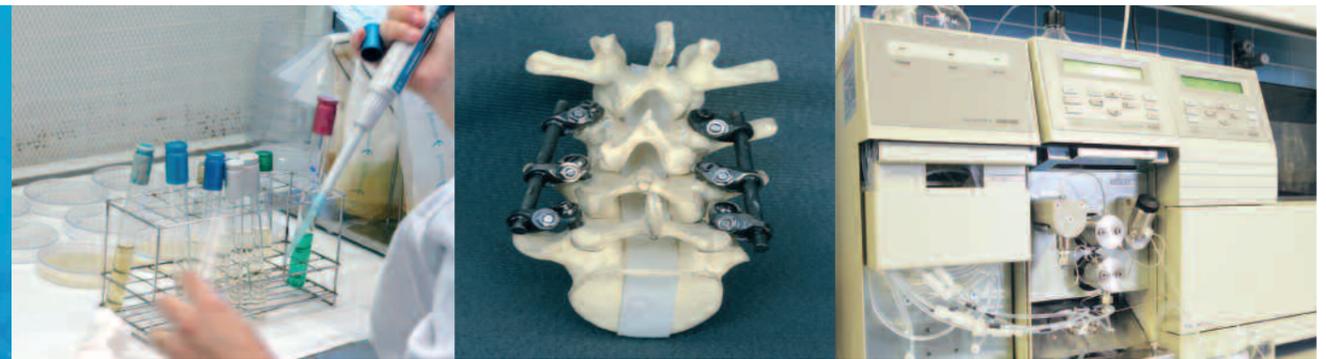


The Canary Islands have highly qualified and trained professionals in many fields of science as the Islands are an excellent laboratory for experimenting and developing Research, Development and Innovation (R+D+i). Furthermore, the Islands have highly specific natural conditions and a rich and varied biodiversity, making them an excellent place to invest in knowledge.

Hence, the technological R+D+i sectors represent one of the cornerstones of the Canary Island Government's development policies for economic diversification.

Below is a presentation of the sectors with the greatest business potential in the Canary Islands because of both their strategic nature and their capacity for growth here.



Bio-technology and Health Sciences

Bio-technology and Health Sciences are two important sectors in the area of R+D+i, which is why there are top-flight lines of research in these fields.

Thus, the Canary Islands are considered a “**macro-laboratory**” with vast reserves of natural resources and one of the richest bio-diversities in the world. In this sense, it is worth pointing out that this small island region of the Canary Archipelago contains 80% of all Spain's bio-diversity, with over 14,000 land species, 600 endemic plants and 5,500 marine species recorded.

The region has pioneered research on, and the use of, marine **bio-technology** since the 1990s. The **Spanish Algae Bank**, founded in 1998, has a catalogue of over 150 strains. The private sector includes the BIOAgramar Foundation, which has a collection of more than 500 varieties.

Furthermore, there are large numbers of highly qualified professionals working in one of the three Faculties of Marine Sciences in Spain, which is located in the Canary Islands.

The Institute of Natural Products and Agro-biology (IPNA-CSIC) was named as one of the best in the world in its field by a committee of experts from the European Science Foundation. This is the first Spanish centre of its kind and it is destined to become a benchmark in Europe.

On the other hand, the Canary Islands are leaders in the field of **minimally invasive surgery** and image-guided medicine in Spain. There are also important initiatives in the field of **bio-engineering**, rolled out by the Canary Island Agency for Research, Innovation and Information Society (ACIISI, from the Spanish), the Canary Island Research and Health Foundation (FUNCIS, from the Spanish), the Universities of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and La Laguna, the University Hospital of the Canary Islands (Tenerife), the Doctor Negrin University Hospital and the Materno-Infantil Hospital Complex (Gran Canaria).