



EUROBIO 2009: A EUROPEAN SHOWCASE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

NEW YORK (October 1, 2009) - - The Invest in France Agency is looking forward to welcoming thousands of guests at this year's European life sciences convention, which is to be held in Lille, France from September 23 through 25. In the same vein as "Bio US" and "Bio Japan", the EuroBio is a key event for those in the international life sciences community.

Taking part in last year's EuroBio convention in Paris were 5,000 participants from over 20 countries including 500 companies and clusters. With its appeal to research and industry, and a focus on all key subjects relating to the various applications of biotechnology (healthcare, manufacturing and agricultural procedures), EuroBio offers a yearly look at the latest advances in R&D in one of the most critical sectors for the future of mankind and the environment.

France is renowned around the globe for its strong healthcare and advances in the biotech field. Companies such as Bio-Alliance, Nicox, ExonHit and Hybrigenics continue to conduct cutting-edge research. Some receive substantial support from large pharmaceutical groups who contribute funds to their R&D projects. U.S. biotech pioneers like Amgen and Genzyme operate in France and have evolved into "bio-pharma" companies, marketing essential medications. Given that the majority of future medications will be created using biotechnology, the strategic importance of these biotechnology companies cannot be overestimated.

"Healthcare is a national priority in France and future medications will make increasing use of biotechnologies," said David Appia, President of the Invest in France Agency. "France is at the forefront of biotechnology in Europe and has all the key advantages to convince biotechnology companies, many of whom are SMEs, to choose the country as a base.

Eight innovation centers in France have been focusing on biotechnology and healthcare since 2005 by encouraging the dynamic nature of the sector through the fostering of knowledge-sharing between manufacturers and public sector laboratories. The innovation centers are: Lyonbiopôle (Rhône-Alpes), Medicen (Ile-de-France), Alsace BioValley (Alsace), Nutrition Health Longevity (Nord-Pas-de-Calais), Atlantic Biotherapies (Pays de la Loire), Prod'Innov (Aquitaine), EuroBioMed (Languedoc-Roussillon/Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur), Cancer-Bio-Santé (Midi-Pyrénées). A map of these centers and additional information can be found [online](#).

France's exceptionalism also has its origins in the excellence of French healthcare research, which was exemplified recently with two huge accomplishments chief of which was the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine awarded to Professors Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier at the Institut Pasteur in Paris for their work leading to the discovery of the human immunodeficiency (AIDS) retrovirus. Also, the first high-resolution map of the human genome was developed at Génopôle d'Evry, a campus dedicated to biotechnologies, by Jean Weissenbach, Director of Génoscope.

Such excellence in research is now supported by France's generous and competitive research tax credit. France's many incentives enabled CellSeed, a Japanese biotechnology startup specializing in stem cell therapy to establish itself in Lyon. The quality of clinical trial platforms in France, the transparency of the regulatory environment, the high regard for ethics and patient relations and the availability of experts in the region all played a major role in CellSeed's decision-making process.