

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LIFESCIENCE CORRIDOR FRANCE :

### A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OF THREE FRENCH BIOCLUSTERS WITH INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS

**A strategic alliance between the *Cancer-Bio-Health*, *Lyonbiopôle* and *Innovations Thérapeutiques* clusters in order to develop their international activities: partnerships with clusters in Japan, the United States and Canada, support for SME in European and international markets, positioning as a "super-biocluster" of world importance.**

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The innovative **Life Science Corridor France** will be launched officially during the Euro-Regional Biotechnology and Healthcare Meeting which takes place in Toulouse on December 3 and 4, 2007.

From Strasbourg to Toulouse, via Lyons and Grenoble, this north-east/south-west Life Science Corridor reunites three French competitiveness clusters: **Cancer-Bio-Health Pole** (Midi-Pyrénées, Limousin), **Innovations Thérapeutiques Pole** (Alsace) and **Lyonbiopôle** (Rhône-Alpes), with the objective of developing synergistic international activities and creating a critical mass in the world biocluster landscape.

Life Science Corridor France - Strasbourg, Lyon-Grenoble, Toulouse:

A pioneering approach for a trio of  
complementary and dynamic health and biotechnology poles, open to international development.

Objectives:

To provide support for SME in an international context  
and  
to develop European and international technology partnerships  
around collaborative R&D projects.

## ü LIFE SCIENCE CORRIDOR FRANCE: COMPLEMENTARITY AND SYNERGY

The Life Science Corridor France has focused its development on complementarity in a context of strategic partnerships and synergistic activities and resources.

In Strasbourg, the **Innovations Thérapeutiques** cluster develops the interfaces between chemistry, biology and medical technologies in two main areas: from genetics and chemistry to medicinal products, and medical and surgical robotics.

**Lyonbiopôle** is a world cluster focused on the fight against human and animal infectious diseases, benefiting from internationally acknowledged expertise in the fields of diagnostics, vaccines and novel therapies and their delivery systems.

As for the **Cancer-Bio-Health cluster**, it proposes a strategic, scientific and economic continuum around the management of cancer, ranging from prevention, diagnostics and therapy to the follow-up and home care of cancer patients.

Complementary in terms of their activities, the three clusters have developed international relationships in a variety of geographical regions, and each cluster has already managed and negotiated inter-cluster partnership agreements on behalf of all three: **Cancer-Bio-Health with Japan**, **Innovations Thérapeutiques with Canada** and **Lyonbiopôle with the United States**.

As a sort of "super-cluster", the Life Science Corridor France associates resources and actors from industry, research, teaching and finance in the three clusters. It provides a broad range of skills and excellence in the biotech and health fields, enabling the development of exchange programmes with similar actors in targeted inter-cluster areas. These international partnerships will contribute to strengthening the attractiveness, visibility and critical mass of the Life Science Corridor France.

In response to government incentives aimed at creating synergies between competitiveness clusters and supporting SME in other countries, the Life Science Corridor is the first of its kind in France.

Following the call for proposals from the French Ministry for Industry, the Life Science Corridor France was granted funds of more than €300,000 over two years, to be used for these international activities (including in Europe) in the context of the Programme for International Technological Partnerships.

## ü LIFE SCIENCE CORRIDOR FRANCE: INITIAL RESULTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Three partnerships have already been finalised by the signature of collaborative agreements as from 2008 with Japanese bioclusters in Kobé and Osaka, American bioclusters in San Diego and Boston and soon with Canada.

By boosting their international activities through the creation of the Life Science Corridor, the Cancer-Bio-Health, Lyonbiopôle and Innovations Thérapeutiques clusters have adopted a novel approach which is central to the concepts of collaboration between competitiveness clusters, support for companies in an international context, national priorities to increase the number of French SME in European research programmes (FP7) and the development of actions in Asia and North America.

**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**EURO-REGIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTHCARE MEETING**  
**LIFE SCIENCE CORRIDOR FRANCE**

**December 4, 2007 – 11.00 a.m.**  
**Toulouse**

**Presentation of the Euro-regional Biotechnology & Healthcare Meeting**  
**Overview of the biotechnology industry in the Midi-Pyrénées region**  
**Presentation and official launch of the Life Science Corridor France**

**Ø ABOUT THE LIFE SCIENCES CORRIDOR FRANCE**

- An internationally-targeted strategic alliance with of three French bioclusters : Lyonbiopôle, Innovations Thérapeutiques and Cancer-Bio-Health.
- Official launch on December 4, 2007 in Toulouse during the Euro-Regional Biotechnology & Health Meeting;
- Initial partnerships with international bioclusters in 2008: Japan (Kobe and Osaka), United States (San Diego and Boston) and Canada.

**Ø FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE THREE BIOCLUSTERS, GO TO:**

- Cancer-Bio-Health (Midi-Pyrénées, Limousin): [www.cancerbiosante.fr](http://www.cancerbiosante.fr)
- Lyonbiopôle (Rhône Alpes): [www.lyonbiopole.com](http://www.lyonbiopole.com)
- Innovations Thérapeutiques (Alsace): [www.innovations-therapeutiques.fr](http://www.innovations-therapeutiques.fr)

**Ø ABOUT THE EURO-REGIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY & HEALTHCARE MEETING**

- The first Euro-Regional Biotechnology and Healthcare Meeting is to be held on December 3 and 4, 2007 in Toulouse, at the initiative of MidiBiotech, the biotechnology industry association for the Midi-Pyrénées region. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for contacts between the biotechnology, healthcare and food industry sectors, and to develop synergies and partnerships on both sides of the Pyrenees.
- The ultimate ambition is to create a biotechnology network for the south-west of Europe.
- A three-in-one programme: top level presentations, one-to-one business meetings and exhibits.

[www.midibiotech.org](http://www.midibiotech.org)

**PRESS CONTACT**

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