



PRESS RELEASE

A new step in Lyonbiopôle's growth

Lyon, May 13th, 2008 – The Lyonbiopôle competitive cluster has reached an important milestone in its development: setting up a team in Lyon/Gerland is the first step in moving forward with the Infectiology Center construction project.

The cluster is continuing its activity of setting up R&D projects, with a total of 39 projects funded thus far. It is increasing its support for the development of SMBs and launching new actions. The founding of PX'Monoclonals, a business based on an accredited innovation project, is one concrete result of Lyonbiopôle's SMB Plan.

The Infectiology Center construction project is underway

With the Lyonbiopôle team's move to the Domilyon building in Lyon/Gerland in April 2008, the competitive cluster has taken an important step. This is in fact the first stage in the creation of the Infectiology Center. Launched in October 2007, the Center is designed as a shared organization for Lyonbiopôle partners' R&D activities, making member firms and the region more competitive with the long-term aim of economic development. All of the cluster's partners – firms, academics, the State, local authorities, and particularly Greater Lyon which is managing the project – have invested their energies in the new center.

The Infectiology Center will offer the following services:

- Assistance in setting up collaborative R&D projects
- Hosting public/private R&D teams
- Access to shared technical platforms
- Sharing of high-level equipment (including Biosafety Level 3 laboratories)
- Opening a European and worldwide network of expertise and skills.

Upcoming phases in the building of the Infectiology Center:

- In August 2008, work on the construction of the 7 laboratory modules and three Biosafety Level 3 (high-security) laboratories will begin in a 1,875 sq. m. / 20,000 sq. ft. area at Domilyon.
- At the end of the Q1 2009, the teams, made up of 12 scientists on average, will move into the labs. To date, six different research teams have sent in applications to join the Infectiology Center.
- In 2012/2013, the IC will move into a new building at the heart of the Charles Mérieux Campus. The site will feature 16,000 sq. m. / 172,000 sq. ft. of high-level laboratories and facilities, with 1,000 researchers and staff working in the field of infectious diseases.

The IC project is a cornerstone of the Charles Mérieux Campus, which itself is part of the new State Region Project Contract (CPER) for 2008/2013. With overall investment reaching €50.25 million financed by Greater Lyon, the State, Rhône-Alpes Region and the Rhône County Council, it will bring together:

- The Infectious Disease Virology and Immunology Institute (IVIPI - INSERM Units U758 and U851),
- The Functional Genomics Institute (IGFL)
- The National Institute for Research in Applied Informatics (INRIA)

These players are thus working on building a major public/private research and development center focusing on the global fight against infectious diseases.

R&D projects that address major public health issues

Since 2005, Lyonbiopôle has accredited 39 R&D projects, with overall investment of €138 million. These projects have received €45.2 million in public funding from the French State (FUI), local authorities (Rhône-Alpes Region, Greater Lyon, Grenoble Alpes Métropole, Rhône County Council, Isère County Council, Ain County Council and FEDER), Oséo and the European Community.

Lyonbiopôle has just submitted four new projects accredited to the 6th Call for Projects of the Single Inter-Ministry Fund (FUI), which closed on April 30th, 2008. 47 projects have been submitted to the National Research Agency (ANR). Some €40 million in public funding has been requested to help finance this series of projects.

The SMB Plan: initial results and new actions

Among the action plans implemented by Lyonbiopôle since the start of 2007, support for SMBs has been a priority.

The SMB Plan has been designed to:

- Foster the development of new industrial activities
- Promote partnerships between SMBs, corporations and academic players to carry out innovative projects
- Help local SMBs develop their business activities abroad
- Optimize the funding process once a project has been accredited.

As well, SMBs are offered extensive training and information on Good Practices in Industrial Property.

Among the first results of the SMB Plan, the International Technological Partnership Program (PPTI), designed by the DGE for an initial 2-year period (2008/2009), answers the government's call for greater support for SMBs in setting up new international collaborative projects. Led by Lyonbiopôle, alongside two other competitive clusters - Alsace BioValley and Cancer-Bio-Santé - this pioneer program, called Lifescience Corridor France (LCF), aims to:

- Facilitate the involvement of local SMBs in existing technological partnerships throughout Europe and worldwide
- Support SMBs in designing and setting up new collaborative technological projects
- Build synergy between complementary dynamic clusters.

An initial partnership agreement was signed with the Kansai Biomedical Cluster (Osaka/Kobe) on February 4th, 2008 in Japan. Six Rhône-Alpes firms (ERYtech pharma, genOway, Imaxio, Innate Pharma, Protein'eXpert and Transgene) are already involved in such a program on the West Coast of the USA, in San Diego. As part of this program, the French American Biotechnology Symposium (FABS) brought together some 100 French and American scientists and business leaders at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California on April 2nd, 2008 in order to build cooperative projects.

Lyonbiopôle, as part of Lifescience Corridor France, is continuing its work by participating in the "Symposium on Competitiveness Clusters and Sectors of Excellence" in Quebec from

May 20th to 22nd, as well as in the second edition of the “Fast-Track R&D Partnering with France” workshop to be held June 16th at the BIO International Convention in San Diego.

New actions will soon be underway to deploy the Plan, including:

- Launching of the “Lunch Break Partnering” (LBP) sessions. Held at lunchtime, the LBP sessions aim to provide an informal time for discussion on a pre-determined topic. Every six weeks, this networking opportunity will bring together SMB and corporate managers, academics and funding providers from the public and private sectors.
- Startup of a working group, GD€co (for *Groupe de Développement Économique* or Economic Development Group), whose mission involves designing campaigns and