

One Nation, One Biotech Cluster

No 3, October 2013

Editorial

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Switzerland is this year's guest country at Biotechnica. It is a particular privilege which the Deutsche Messe offers to us and we feel proud. To a certain extent it might be logical, because

Germany and Switzerland have a lot in common. Germany is the biggest export market for Switzerland since decades. Apart from economy, cultural, tourism and people exchange are equally important between the two countries.

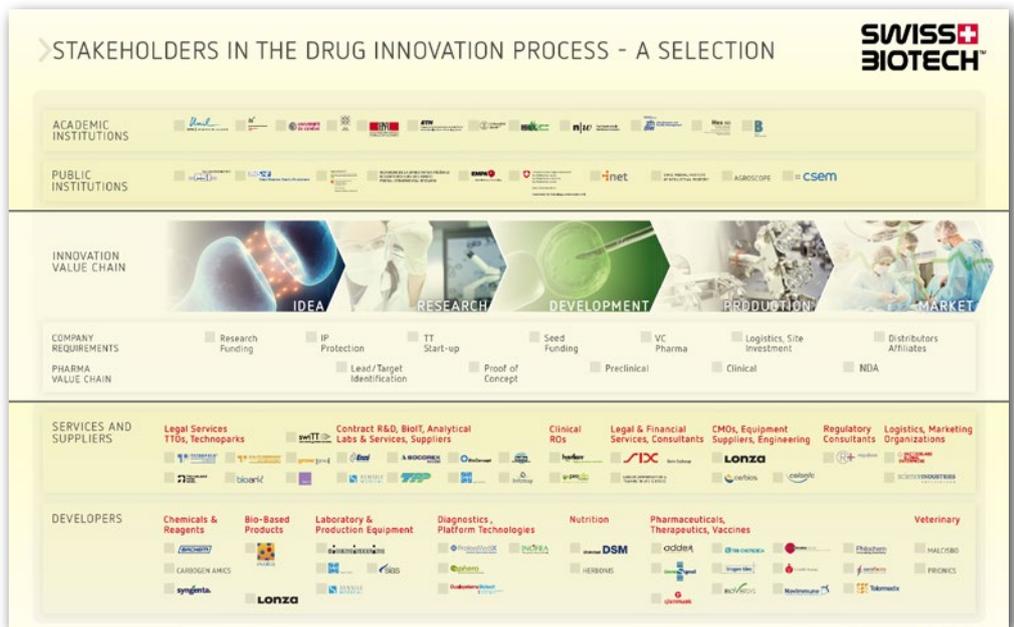
At Biotechnica, Switzerland entertains a country pavillion organised and managed by SGE (Switzerland Global Enterprises). The program of Biotechnica'13 is of high quality and shows the sustainable success of the show in its 20th edition. Drop by the Swiss Pavillion and get a chance to win a big box of Swiss chocolate. - Good Luck!

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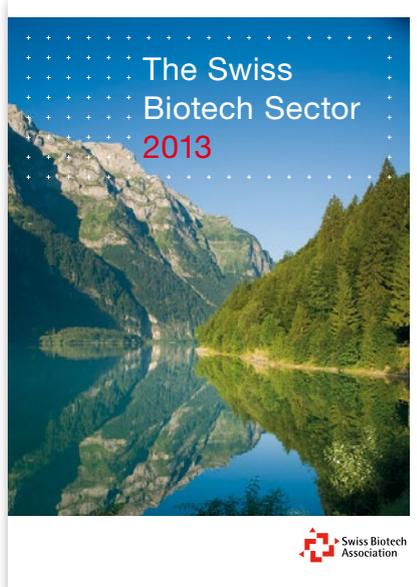
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Innovation – A key success factor for Switzerland

Switzerland scores repeated high in innovation indexes. As a small country with little raw material base, it is clear that the economy can only be competitive with sustainable innovation. The Innovation Walls presented at this years' Biotechnica is a selection in the field of drug development. Various stakeholders from academia to companies play an important role to realise innovation pipeline.



Swiss Biotech Sector 2013



According to definitions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – which are the basis of the report – there were 197 Swiss companies which used biotechnological methods in at least some of their business units in 2012. The reports shows how the sector was developed and what can be expected in the future. The work was supported by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research and constitutes a voluntary contribution to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and has been executed by Biocom, Berlin.

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Biotechnica project partner:



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Biotechnica – Longtime Participant – BioConcept



Since the foundation in 1978 BioConcept became a leading supplier and service partner to the biological research community representing a full range of sterile products in cell and tissue culture. Production of customer designed media is the speciality of our activities and one of the main strengths.

Recognising that the rapid advances in cell biology require a service partner offering more than standard catalogue media, we invested in a manufacturing facility for sterile cell culture media to be able to provide customers all over the world with a high quality specialised cell and tissue culture medium portfolio. Our customer service and manufacturing operations are covered by an ISO 9001:2008 certified Quality Management System. The powder production equipment of BioConcept can handle batch sizes up to 700 kg. Beside cell culture media, BioConcept offers equipment for sterile production and filling of petri dishes. 'BioConcept is recognized as a leading supplier in our activity fields' notes owner and CEO Martin Howald. He is board member in the Swiss Biotech Association since the start of the association in 1998. 'Biotechnica is part of our planning since 1995. First, I visited the show to create contacts, since 1999 my company is part of the Swiss Pavillion.'

Switzerland – Active Partner in the European Biotech Week



Prior to the Biotechnica week, led by Swiss Biotech™, two regional highlights took place in the Western Part of the country, the Romandie.

October 3, Renens

The NTN Inartis, a Network for Life Sciences in Western Switzerland conducted a ½ day event on the subject of "Process Control in the Medtech & Bitoech Industry". Topics varied from control and cutomation to robotics in this dynamic segment of Life Sciences.

Key speakers from academia and industry covered the various topics. Well over 50 persons enjoyed a standing lunch after the presentations and used the opportunity for networking and one-to-one partnering discussions.

October 4, Lausanne

The NTN Swiss Biotech™ highlighted in the first Swiss Biotech Day in Western Switzerland the results of the first ever Swiss OECD survey for biotechnology. Various cases from biotech companies and networks followed and demonstrated innovative ways to accelerate drug development. A comprehensive panel on regional – national and international network potential concluded the successful event with more than 100 participants.

Biotech meets Medtech

Companion diagnostics complement diagnosis and treatment



The new class of in-vitro diagnostics commonly called 'companion diagnostics' influences the diagnostic process. Regulatory considerations follow this complex and interesting new merging field.

The discovery of fundamental molecular disease pathways has allowed the diagnosis of disease bases on underlying mechanisms, as well as the devleopment of medicines targeting specific pathways. These developments change our understanding of disease overall and result in a new disease taxonomy based on molecular disease mechanisms. The new approach to the classification and diagnosis of disease has inspired a new generation of diagnostic tools based on mechanism-specific biomarkers.

Regulatory concerns can be:

- If a companion diagnostic was used during the development of a new medicine – either for selection of patients or for assignment to treatment – the companion diagnostic test may significantly influence the overall benefit-risk ratio of this medicine as demonstrated during development.
- The quality and clinical utility of a companion diagnostic test may affect the safety of the medicinal product for which it is used.

Good (regulatory) management in this field will benefit the 'personalised' or 'targeted' healthcare in the future.

Full article: European Biotech News No 9 2013 – Authors; T. Ostler, D. Niese – regulanet™

Biotechnica 2013

The national thematic network for biotechnology, NTN Swiss Biotech, supported by the national funding agency, CTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation) made this exhibit possible. Eight projects are

displayed at the Swiss Pavilion. The projects are co-funded by academic institutions and industry partners located in Switzerland. This type of innovative collaboration is a cornerstone of the Swiss value proposition.

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Development of a high sensitivity label-free waveguide interferometry instrument: A project of Creoptix GmbH with the Center for Biochemistry ZHAW as main research partner

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Expansion of adipose-tissue derived mesenchymal stem cells in stirred single-use bioreactors under low-serum conditions

SWISS BIOTECH

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