

Editorial

Daniel Gygax



Biotechnet developed over the last 10 years many CTI projects with roughly CHF 50.0 Mio. total budget. This number is impressive but also a strong call to continue on the

same path and trying to become better. The restructure of R&D networks by CTI and the KTT-consortia became for us in the biotechnet an opportunity. The SBA, a long standing supporter for us, was the partner of choice for the new initiative (see special text on NTN). We're certainly very pleased with the rapid progress by the new NTN Swiss Biotech™. Today, represents a first milestone for the NTN, because it is a go-live day.

Dominik Escher



As former board member of the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA) and now elected president, I'm particularly pleased to start off with the NTN as a new service in the portfolio

of our valuable association. The program will bring academia and industry even further together, thereof I'm convinced. Although the SBA has always been a strong ally for academic institutions all over Switzerland and also on foreign soil, there are always white spots on our landscape. I expect that the NTN will help to secure more value for our industry and hence for the Swiss economy.

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CTI launches new KTT strategy

Bern, 2013

Swiss companies are to receive long-term support for innovative activities. The Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI has developed a new strategy for promoting Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT). National thematic networks (NTNs), innovation mentors (IMs) and physical and web-based platforms are ready to be introduced in early 2013.

The new strategy aims to provide an efficient network for businesses, especially SMEs, and public research institutions in order to generate new opportunities for innovative cooperation. The new promotion strategy is based on three key areas:

National thematic networks (NTNs)

The national thematic networks help to form contacts between businesses and public research institutes. Each NTN deals with a different area of innovation which is of importance to the Swiss economy.

Following a multi-stage assessment procedure in 2012, eight national thematic networks were recognised by the CTI: 'Carbon Composites Switzerland', 'Inartis', 'Innovative Surfaces', 'Swiss Biotech', 'Swiss Food Research', 'Swiss Wood Innovation Network', 'Swissphotonics' and 'Logistics Network Association'. These networks began their work in January 2013.

Innovation mentors (IMs)

Innovation mentors are contact persons for SMEs. They are familiar with and understand the innovation challenges and needs faced by companies and help them to find the right research partner in an academic institution. They aim to create contacts and identify, specify and implement ways of encouraging innovation.

The innovation mentors' work is additional to that of the regional and cantonal technology advisors. Eight innovation mentors will be working for the CTI from 2013. If this work is well received and there proves to be a greater need for it among SMEs, further innovation mentors may be recruited.

Physical and web-based platforms

The KTT platforms bring together representatives from the worlds of business and science and provide a physical and interactive interface between innovation mentors and the national thematic networks. Contacts can be made and maintained, and key issues which SMEs are likely to face in the future can be discussed. The platforms will be extended successively throughout the year.

The new KTT strategy is effective since January 2013. CTI Vice President Dr. Myriam Meyer will be in charge of the strategy.

NTN Partners:



New online tool for submitting R&D applications

From 1 March 2013, applicants for R&D funding will be able to make use of CTI projects, a clear, efficient and stable portal for web-based R&D application submissions. Thanks to its interactive user interface, even newcomers will be able to find their way around the site with ease. Additional information can be found in CTI projects under the heading 'About'.

R&D applications submitted using the existing 'CTI application for funding' form will still be accepted by the CTI until further notice. With a view to the total switchover to CTI projects, however, applicants are requested to already submit applications using the CTI-projects portal.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the relevant R&D project manager of our secretariat (see CTI contact information).

CTI contact information

Project proposal submissions:
www.kti.admin.ch/projektfoerderung/00025/index.html?lang=en

Biotechnology as part of sustainability. Or is it the other way around?

Guest editor: **Dr. Vanya Loroach**



In our interconnected and busy world, a single word can make all the difference. When that word is sustainability, an immediate consensus emerges: sustainability is something every

company in every industry should abide by. And it doesn't matter if most people that share this opinion have only a very vague idea about what sustainability may actually mean. Whether one believes it is just a trendy word or whether one is convinced it has substance, everyone agrees that sustainability is something good.

However, when that word is biotechnology, there is no consensus, and one can get almost any opinion, depending on the specific issue that is being addressed and the a priori stand of those that address it. Here the fact that for most people a simple definition is lacking, just like with sustainability, seems to do more harm than good. And whether one is a friend or foe of biotechnology, the simple truth is that biotechnology, as an area of applied knowledge, is perceived as very fragmented whereas sustainability is seen as something integrated and holistic.

Can we change this perception to help better position biotechnology in the industrial and political landscape?

At many levels, the two concepts, if not directly related are deeply interconnected. Sustainability obviously calls upon biotechnology for many aspects pertaining to the environment and renewable resources. Biotechnology, in

turn, relies on processes that are by definition sustainable because they are driven by living systems. But beyond these simple observations, the ideals and aspirations of biotechnology and of sustainability may well end up being the same. Both approaches are transversal, impacting potentially any industry. Both address tomorrow's post-petroleum economy and both aim to provide long-term solutions to problems that are otherwise inextricable: the planet's food supply, the energy crisis, climate changes and the state of the environment.

If biotechnology is so similar to sustainability in its perceptions and aspirations, perhaps biotechnology would be better defined and understood by all stakeholders in conjunction with sustainability. For instance, the notion of an ecosystem is central to sustainability. It may well apply to biotechnology as well: the discovery and the development of a biopharmaceuticals for example can be easily described as an ecosystem with a life cycle of some twenty years that involves many players: academic institutions that provide skilled scientists, research institutes that employ these scientists to produce fundamental science, small and large companies that transform the knowledge into successful therapeutic products with hopefully a predefined strategy for the next cycle, be it a biosimilar or an enhanced derivative of an existing drug. And representing a success story of a drug as a success story of the ecosystem that produced it would certainly change the perception of what biotechnology can do to help address a particular complex problem, such as an unmet therapeutic need.

There are many more obvious and not so obvious links between biotechnology and sustainability. And because the whole is so

much more than the sum of the parts in both instances, it is the whole that must be explained and promoted. The sustainability lobby – even if there is arguably no such entity – has communicated superbly to the world that what it promotes deserves universal approval and support. We can do the same for biotechnology. It is a technology that deserves it.

Swiss Academy 2013
Program

Swiss Biotech Association

SBA ACADEMY 2013
Challenges in Drug Discovery and Development

March 22, 2013
Non-Clinical Development
Biopôle, Lausanne

April 26, 2013
Manufacturing
Technologiepark, Basel

May 24, 2013
Clinical Development
Biopôle, Lausanne

June 28, 2013
Strategy Day
Technopark, Zürich

Event Partners:

swiTT
swiss technology transfer association

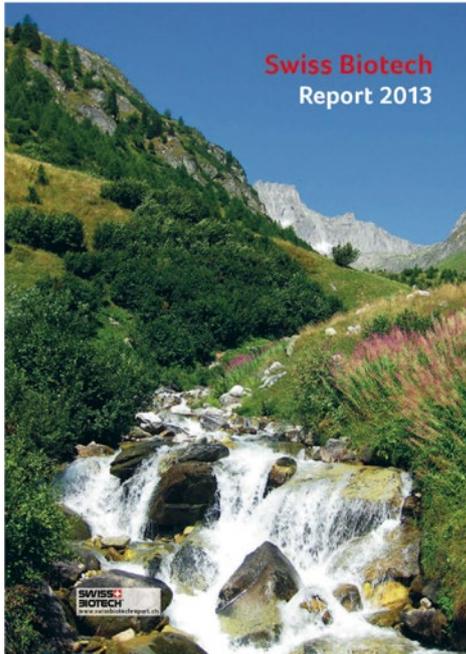
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Förderpartner für Innovation ETH

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Swiss Biotech Report 2013 – Content description



In this year's Swiss Biotech Report we focus on innovation, its value to the national economy and the challenge of converting 'know-how' into products and services that are traded in a global market. Given Switzerland's lack of natural resources, innovation must drive prosperity and its importance is reflected in the priority it is given in the Swiss Federal Council's planned legislation programme

On a per capita basis, Switzerland is a world leader when it comes to scientific publications and patents. In 2011, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology were Switzerland's largest export industry accounting for 38% of business overseas. And it is not by chance that specialties now make up 90% of the biotechnology product portfolio and just 5% of sales within the country.

Of course innovation is the lifeblood of biotechnology. The OECD, the EU and most national governments see biotechnology as a critical element of sustainable economic growth. It is a versatile tool that is relevant to many industries and it also provides the foundations for tackling the many health challenges that we face today and on into the future.

We take a closer look at how public and private sector are helping to support the development of know-how as a product. In this respect we are lucky because Switzerland has proven capability where it matters: many years experience in financing and valuing biotechnology know-how; evolving frameworks to empower innovation and growth; and strategies for 'use-inspired' research.

Continued success depends on our constantly renewing the science and technology base.

We must be concerned about public distrust of bio and green gene technology but also welcome the impetus given by the five life science modules in the SNSF's new National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) programme. And academia is evolving with a drive towards 'use-inspired basic research'.

We live in a time of enormous challenge and opportunity. Swiss Biotech has continued to demonstrate sustained drive and inventiveness when it comes to adapting to a changing world. In reading the Swiss Biotech Report 2013, we hope you find lots to inspire and use in coming months. www.swissbiotech.org

For the steering committee,
Domenico Alexakis



Competence Centre Single-Use Technology

Regine Eibl



BioTech 2013: The event taking place on June 4-5, 2013 in Wädenswil is focusing on Single-Use Technology in Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing.

Join this year's international meeting of stakeholders in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. The conference will provide an overview on current trends in single-use products, production processes and technologies as well

as regulatory requirements when applying single-use products in biotechnological production. More information; regine.eibl.zhaw.ch

Competence Centre TEDD

Ursula Graf



Organ-like human tissue models are an important tool for drug development and evaluation of active substances. The TEDD national competence centre pools and transfers knowledge and technologies in order to promote the further development and application of in vitro cell and tissue culture.

Through concrete research projects and knowledge transfer within a network of partners from various interest groups, a platform has been created which actively contributes to the development and application of alternative test methods for routine use in industry. TEDD organises periodic events for stakeholders and interested parties. More information: ursula.graf.zhaw.ch

Promotion
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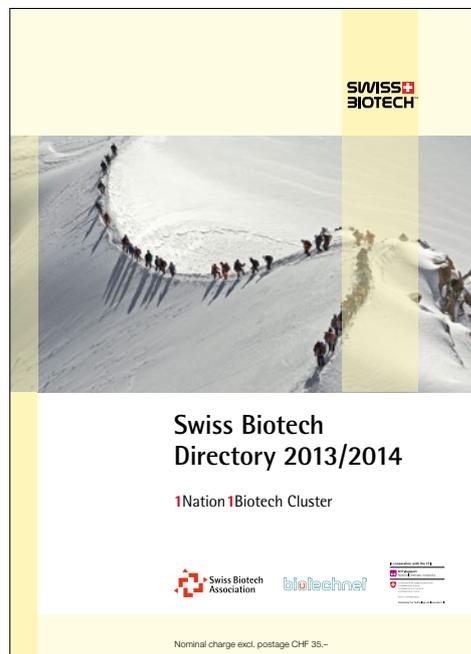
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NIELSEN DESIGN

Swiss Biotech Directory 2013/14

The Swiss Biotech Directory 2013/2014 is published for the 5th successive time. The directory is linked to the information available at www.swisbiotech.org, the national site for the Biotech Industry in Switzerland.



About swiTT Services

swiTTlist (www.swiTTlist.ch)

swiTT is celebrating the 10-year anniversary in 2013. The association of TechTransfer professionals of Switzerland is supporting the innovation value chain in many ways. - Check out the services and membership opportunities at www.switt.ch

The unique national platform for technology opportunities from Swiss public research institutions provides companies with a quick overview of current technologies and the necessary contact information. Subscription to automatic alerts is free of charge.

swiTTreport

The annual survey gives an overview of the technology transfer activities of the major universities and other public research institutions. It also highlights success stories from different sectors. The report can be ordered through the swiTT Office.

startupticker.ch: The Swiss start-up news channel

startupticker.ch
the swiss startup news channel

startupticker.ch is the online platform for young entrepreneurs, innovators and supporters. The hub increases the visibility of young Swiss companies and serves to highlight the diverse and

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The innovation mentors' work is additional to that of the regional and cantonal technology advisors.

Adress		Contact
Head innovation mentors		
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swiTTacademy

swiTT regularly organizes educational events on a variety of topics for its members. Some of the events are also open for non-members.

swiTTtalk

The member's forum allows to easily draw on the knowhow and expertise of other members on specific topics of interest.

More information available through:
www.switt.ch

vibrant start-up scene. The portal started about a year ago and has today more than 10'000 readers per month. The news portal provides daily information on company results, partnerships, growth, financing, exits, support services, events and award tenders. The most important news and events of the week from the start-up

community are sent out in a weekly newsletter to more than 2300 subscribers. The news portal communicates in English, German, French and Italian. This hub of the Swiss start-up scene is operated by the Startupticker Association, a public-private partnership initiative. News on Biotech are regularly featured on the site.

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