

Press release

New biotechnology solutions in the «SWISS Pavilion» at BIO 2008

Zurich, 20.05.2008. **BIO 2008, one of the most important biotechnology trade fairs, is being held this year in San Diego (USA). The foreign trade promoter, Osec, is organising a joint «SWISS Pavilion» stand, where, from 17th to 20th June, 10 Swiss companies will present a variety of products and services from the biotechnology sector under the umbrella brand, «Switzerland.».**

At BIO 2008 in San Diego, 10 Swiss companies will present their high quality products and services to a wide audience under the umbrella of the «**SWISS Pavilion**». The «**SWISS Pavilion**» is being organized by the official Swiss foreign trade promoter, Osec, in co-operation with Swiss Biotech. One of the aims of Swiss Biotech, which represents more than 170 companies from the biotechnology sector, is to publicize Switzerland abroad as a pre-eminent location for biotechnology. Swiss Biotech brings together leading regions of Switzerland, such as BaselArea, BioAlps – Lake Geneva BioCluster, Biopolo Ticino and Greater Zurich area, which are deeply rooted in the biotech sector.

Biotechnology is becoming increasingly important for Switzerland

The Swiss biotechnology industry is one of the largest and most diversified in Europe. The Swiss biotech sector is amongst the top 10 in the world. In 2007, 220 biotech companies in Switzerland (including Novartis, Roche and Merck Serono) employed about 14,000 people. These companies earn about CHF 7.2 billion, with expenditure on R&D amounting to approx. CHF 1.8 billion. Two reasons for the success in biotechnology are the sufficiently large number of research institutes, plus accelerated technology transfer. Further elements contributing to rapid economic growth in the sector are the early integration of the industry and a well-educated workforce.

Innovative solutions under the joint Swiss umbrella

In the «**SWISS Pavilion**», Swiss companies and organizations will present new biotech services to fair visitors. Amongst the items of interest will be the presentation by Life Science Zurich, a joint-venture project of ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich and Greater Zurich Area, in biomedical research. However, also worthy of note are the new class of therapeutic proteins developed by Molecular Partners - so called DARPins – which, as simply produced artificial antibodies, have the

potential to take the place of monoclonal antibodies in various applications. From an investor viewpoint, it is worthwhile visiting Nextech Venture Ltd., which is using the first oncology fund to invest in leading worldwide companies involved in the treatment of cancer.

Turnkey stand solution

By taking part in the «**SWISS** Pavilion», Swiss companies will benefit from a turnkey stand solution, a prominent location, a high level of media attention, as well as logistical and staff support from Osec during preparation and on site. Visitors can satisfy themselves of the quality of the Swiss biotechnology industry at the respective stands. A visit to stand 3745 is worth it, not least because it will facilitate valuable contacts.

| «**SWISS** Pavilion» | Stand 3745 |

Further information:

Patrick Djizmedjian

Head of Public Relations / Public Affairs

Osec

Stampfenbachstrasse 85 / CH-8021 Zurich

Tel. +41 44 365 55 16 / Fax +41 44 365 54 92 / Mobile +41 (0)79 642 88 60

pdjizmedjian@osec.ch; www.osec.ch