

Calls for projects: how far we are

3rd call for projects

The Walloon government has made public its decisions concerning the projects submitted in the framework of the 3rd call for projects. As regards the R&D projects submitted by BioWin, the government has followed its jury's recommendations by unconditionally validating the **Biofina** project. The aim of this project is to develop innovative pharmaceutical formulations intended to treat resistant infectious respiratory diseases (including cystic fibrosis) by combining an antibacterial agent and an agent capable of deconstructing the resistant biofilm. The project is led by the company **Galephar M/F** in collaboration with two other SMEs and 5 research units from the universities of Brussels (ULB), Liège (ULg) and Louvain (UCL). Three other R&D projects have been approved but are subject to certain conditions. We shall revert to them once they have been definitively approved.

Moreover, 3 of the cluster's **training projects** have also been approved:

- specific inter-cluster training (opening of BioWin training programmes to members of Wagralim and Mecatech), with effect from the start of the coming academic year in September 2008;
- training for production operators in the biopharmaceutical sector;
- training for maintenance technicians.

4th call for projects

As announced, BioWin has launched its pre-call for projects ahead of the 4th call that the Walloon government is due to launch in September. Fourteen letters of intent have been received by the cluster (some of which are published on the extranet) and the consortia networking is in progress. Projects should be submitted to BioWin it by 1st October for presentation to the cluster's international jury.

New timetable:

- Submission of pre-projects in English: **1st October**
- Pre-selection by BioWin's international jury: **1st November**
- Meeting of the jury and meetings with the project leaders: **7th December**
- Selection of projects by BioWin's Governance Board: **15th December**
- Full files to be submitted in French to the operational unit: **15th January 09**

Training



Specific training programmes

The 2nd quarter programme (September-December) is available on the new www.biowin.org site and online registration is now open. It is to be noted that access to this programme is now open to members of the Walloon Mécatech (mechanical engineering) and Wagralim (agribusiness) competitiveness clusters.

Training through immersion

BioWin is launching, in September, in collaboration with 3 institutes of higher education (Haute Ecole Francisco Ferrer de Bruxelles - Haute Ecole Provinciale du Hainaut Occidental de Ath - Haute Ecole Roi Baudouin de Mons), a pilot training project based on a combination of theoretical education and internships. At the end of the programme 3 possible degrees:

- Bachelor's in medical biology (3 years)
- Bachelor's in chemistry, biochemistry or biotechnology (3 years)
- Master's in industrial sciences specialising in biochemistry (4 years)

The recruitment potential of these training programmes is very high since they are organised in close collaboration with industrial companies (GSK Biologicals, UCB, Coris Bio-Concept, MDS Nordion, Biocode Hycl).

Agenda

On **17th September**, from 16:00 to 18:00, the cluster is organising, with the support of NCP Wallonia (UWE) a **BioWin Afternoon Session** on the potential of European calls for projects for health biotech actors in Wallonia.

Thanks to the support of AWEX, BioWin will be present after the summer holiday period at the following **international biotech fairs**:

AACC	27-31/07	Washington (USA)
Biotech Forum	23-25/09	Copenhagen (Denemark)
Bio Contact	1-3/10	Québec (Canada)
EuroBio	7-9/10	Paris (France)

BioWin will also accompany the mission led by Minister Marie-Dominique Simonet to Mexico at the beginning of September.

International Relation News

Montpellier

On 5 June, BioWin welcomed a delegation from the Montpellier region (France) led by Montpellier Agglomération. The delegation included: companies, CHRU research units, the Montpellier Cancer Research Institute and the

Orphème competitiveness cluster (infectious diseases, rare diseases, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and medical devices). On the Walloon side, BioWin was surrounded by Aresa, Warder, SPoW and GIGA.



In addition to meetings between regional actors on a series of common themes (including training) a session of business meetings managed by



entreprise europe network enabled BioWin members and their counterparts from Montpellier to develop the value of their technologies. According to the parties concerned, these meetings were very interesting. To be continued!

Bio San Diego

BioWin was very active at Bio US 2008 and took advantage of the event to organise numerous meetings. The highlights were the meeting organised by AWEX with the American university **Texas A&M** (Houston) and the BioWin meeting with the **Montreal InVivo** cluster



Work atmosphere in the Walloon wing of the Belgian pavilion at Bio San Diego.



Frédéric Druck
(BioWin) and
Carl Viel
(Montréal InVivo)



Bio Expo Japan

Asia is a continent where biotechnology is rapidly developing. That is why BioWin pays special attention to developments there. After having visited Biopolis (Singapore) at the end of last year, this year the cluster visited Tokyo on the occasion of the Asian Bio Expo fair. BioWin took advantage of the opportunity to consolidate its ties with the biomedical cluster of the **Kobe-Kansai** region (see Newsletter n° 22) and to meet the Japan **Bioindustry Association** (JBA).



Thierry Leclipteux (Coris BioConcept) and Philippe Janssens (AWEX) preparing for the AWEX-BioWin seminar organised on the trade fair and in which Henogen also participated.