

New building at Biopôle to welcome more life science organisations from 2018

Retraites Populaires will construct and fund the future building at Biopôle, in Epalinges. The two institutions have signed a contract.

Lausanne, 18 October 2016 - As of 2018, a new building at Biopôle, in Epalinges, will meet the increasing demand for laboratory and office space. Retraites Populaires and the management of the life science park have signed a contract, appointing the retirement provision specialist from canton Vaud to construct and fund the future building. In exchange, Biopôle will grant Retraites Populaires a “right of use” (*droit de superficie*) on the plot of land for the new building.

Construction will begin this month, with completion scheduled for January 2018. The new 9000 m² building will ultimately house numerous companies, generating between 300 and 500 new jobs in addition to the 1100 people who currently work at Biopôle.

“This new building will increase the competitiveness of our region in the life sciences sector. It will strengthen the resources we use to support our community and the ecosystem which is unique of its kind. Companies here have access to all the ingredients required for successful growth, as well as the professional and personal development of their employees,” stated Nasri Nahas, the CEO of Biopôle.

Alain Lapaire, Properties Director of Retraites Populaires, said: “Biopôle is a good example whereby we are able to provide integrated solutions for the construction, funding and operation of property, and to support the dynamism of canton Vaud through the creation of high added value jobs. The anticipated profitability of the project will make it possible to provide long term insurance commitments.”

More than fifty companies

Started in 2004 by the public authorities of the Canton of Vaud, Biopôle is a life sciences community bringing together industry and academia. Based in Lausanne, it offers a combination of high-quality infrastructure, value-added services and living spaces that are well suited to ensuring the prosperity of the businesses based there. With a surface area of over 8 hectares, the site houses more than fifty companies and institutions, including several head offices of multinational corporations, start-ups and clinical development teams, together with technology and service providers. It also hosts 25 world-famous research groups, in particular the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. Biopôle’s partners are able to benefit from cutting-edge expertise in certain disciplines, such as purchasing, finance, legal services, commercial development, communication, marketing and training. While Biopôle is open to all therapeutic areas, the main focus is on developing innovative solutions in the fields of oncology, immunology, personalized medicine and nutritional health.

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