



134'000 sqm of
offices and
laboratories where all
partners can thrive.

THE BIOPÔLE: DISCOVER A VIBRANT LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNITY

BY NASRI G NAHAS* **DESPITE ITS SMALL SIZE, SWITZERLAND IS A CRADLE FOR INNOVATION, RANKED AMONG THE THREE WORLD LEADERS IN SCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE OECD.**

The Canton of Vaud, the fourth largest of the 26 states that make up the Swiss Confederation, is home to more than 37,000 companies, including around 100 multinationals that have established their Europe Middle East Africa headquarters here.

At the heart of the Health Valley

The canton contains 25% of life sciences workers in Switzerland and its industry contributes significantly to the country's economic development. Half of all Swiss startups in the life sciences were born here. In 2015 Vaud ranked number one among the cantons for fundraising by startups, with four of the top five investment totals raised by new life sciences companies.

At the centre of this "Health Valley" is the Biopôle life sciences park, located in Épalinges, to the north of Lausanne. It is considered a leading European hub for technology and innovation – home to industry leaders, research groups at the cutting edge of their discipline, avant-garde collaborative models and a significant surge in life sciences initiatives in recent years.

While open to all therapeutic areas,

Biopôle's main focus is on oncology, immunology, personalised medicine and nutritional health.

Soft factors are key

Life sciences is the label for a vast sector and it is not always clear what it covers or what is key to success. Biopôle has a simple answer: bringing science to life.

The basic nuts and bolts of a life sciences park are buildings, laboratories and facilities management. This is what everybody expects, and what they are offered at Biopôle. It is an 80,000 sqm park, providing more than 134,000 sqm of office and laboratory space – the largest in Switzerland devoted to life sciences. A further 9,000 sqm of new space is expected to be added in 2017, and double that figure in the following years.

It also hosts everyday amenities including a hotel, shops, café, medical centre, bank and pharmacy, and further added-value services include purchasing, finance, legal, business development, communications and executive coaching. As a result, every company can focus on what it does best: developing innovative solutions for life sciences challenges.

However, these hard facts miss a critical ingredient: a community where ideas cross boundaries, generations and disciplines in a collaborative spirit. Soft factors are key – the way in which people interact, get inspired by their environment and generate cutting-edge ideas. Biopôle's ambition is to nurture such a

vibrant life sciences community.

Biopôle believes in embracing differences and cultivating synergies. Industry and academia co-exist within the park, thereby ensuring active knowledge sharing, appreciation of the various projects being pursued and an understanding of where opportunities for synergy and collaboration exist.

World-class academic and research institutions are a draw for industry anywhere in the world. Biopôle is especially proud to be neighbours of, among others, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), the University Hospital of Canton Vaud (CHUV), the University of Lausanne Centre of Immunology and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. Academic partners develop their innovations at Biopôle alongside major industry players, small and medium enterprises and an incubator dedicated to life sciences startups.

Enabling innovation

Our ambition is to nurture a leading vibrant life sciences community that enables innovation, the holy grail of industry and academia.

We do this by putting all the ingredients of success together and offering a world-class combination of infrastructure, added value services, living space and community engagement where our members thrive in an enjoyable, dynamic and collaborative environment.

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