

PRESS RELEASE

8 June 2017

BIOPOLE ANNOUNCES STARTLAB, TAILOR-MADE INCUBATOR FOR LIFE SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURS

- **Plug and play incubator in brand new building ready Q1 2018**
- **Fully equipped laboratories and shared offices to welcome 10-12 startups**
- **Pay as you play model reduces risk for entrepreneurs and investors**
- **Applications now open for aspiring business creators**
- **Leading Swiss life sciences community, home to over 50 companies, 25 institutions and world-leading research groups**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 8 June 2017 – Biopôle SA, a leading Swiss life sciences park, today announced the creation of StartLab, the first incubator dedicated to life sciences located in the Canton of Vaud. StartLab will offer 700 m² of fully equipped laboratories and 300 m² of shared offices, as a new home for 10-12 startup companies of 35-40 persons in total. It will be part of the new 9,000 m² building developed by Retraites Populaires, a company specialized in life and occupational pensions.

Biopôle has a clear strategy to be one of the best life sciences hubs in Europe, where industry and academia benefit from a vibrant community of exceptional talents, stimulating collaborations, added value services and an unrivalled quality of life.

Nasri Nahas, Chief Executive Officer of Biopôle, stated: “StartLab fulfils a clear need in our region to provide a tailor-made incubator for life sciences entrepreneurs. Our research shows that startups place a high value on ready to use equipped laboratories, shared offices, and an innovative pay-as you play model with less funds needed to start which reduces risk for entrepreneurs and investors. StartLab also offers young aspiring business creators a network of experts with whom they can learn new skills, together with the dynamic Biopôle ecosystem of multinationals, SMEs, and research groups that will accompany them as they transform their ideas into a valuable reality.”

Professor Nouria Hernandez, Rector of the University of Lausanne, and Board member of Biopôle, commented: “The transition from the academic world to industry is crucial and often difficult. 95 percent of students will go into the non-academic world and as a leading academic institution it is our responsibility to help our students succeed. StartLab will enable researchers to take the bold step of moving out of the academic environment into an incubator designed to optimize their chances of creating a successful startup. They will develop an entrepreneurial mind-set and experience the realities of the business world, while benefiting from the Biopôle life science community where ideas cross boundaries, generations and disciplines.”

Applications are now open for aspiring life science entrepreneurs to join StartLab. Their projects will be screened by an Advisory Board of successful leaders from business, science and academia. It is planned for the first selected members to move into the StartLab facilities in Q1 2018.

About StartLab startlab.biopole.ch

StartLab is the first life-sciences dedicated incubator in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland. It offers 700 m2 of fully equipped laboratories and 300 m2 of shared offices, as a new home for 10-12 startup companies of 35-40 persons in total. It has been designed to maximize the chances of success for aspiring business creators. A key feature is a “pay as you play” flexible pricing model, which requires less funds to get started, reduces risk for investors and lowers dilution for entrepreneurs.

Based at Biopôle, a leading Swiss life sciences park, StartLab’s founding sponsors include Retraites Populaires, Losinger Marazzi, Teo Jakob and Milian. Strategic partners are the Canton of Vaud, Innovaud, the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV).

About Biopôle www.biopole.ch

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, Switzerland, it offers a world-class combination of infrastructure, added value services, living space and community engagement where partners can thrive and bring science to life. The site houses more than 50 companies and institutions, including several head offices of multinational corporations, startups 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. Today over 1,200 professionals from over 30 nations enjoy a range of world-class facilities across ~80,000 m2 of landscape, which will include another 36,000 m2 of offices and laboratories in the period 2018-2020.

About Canton of Vaud www.vd.ch

The Canton of Vaud is the fourth largest of the 26 states constituting the Swiss Confederation. It is home to more than 37,000 companies, and since 2000 approximately 100 multinational companies have established their European or EMEA headquarters in the Canton. Geneva airport provides easy access to multiple destinations for both work and leisure activities.

With more than 300 companies active in the life sciences, the Lausanne area employs 16,000 people in the sector, about one quarter of the total number of life sciences workers in Switzerland. 25 percent of the region’s exports are from this dynamic sector and 50 percent of all Swiss startups in life sciences are created in the region, some as spin-offs from major academic institutions, like the EPFL or the University of Lausanne. In 2016 CHF 462 million (USD ~470 million) was raised by startups in the region, with a significant majority being in the life sciences.

Media contacts

Nasri Nahas, Chief Executive Officer, Biopôle, nasri.nahas@biopole.ch, +41 21 651 90 00

European media: Nick Miles, miles@cpc-pr.com, +41 79 678 76 26

US media: Ted Agne, edagne@comstratgroup.com, +1 781 631 3117