



Edition 1, 2007

Focus on personalised solutions from medical treatment to nutrition



Opening speech of Erwin Huber, Bavarian Minister for Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology

■ Specific diagnostics and therapies for personalised medicine, functional ingredients for individualised nutrition and tailor-made biocatalysis for novel chemical products: these were key topics of the 'Forum Life Science' and showed that biotechnology is moving into new areas of applications.

The response of more than 1,000 participants from 20 countries and 110 exhibitors at the 'Forum Life Science' on 14 – 15 February 2007 in Munich-Garching reflected the great interest in biotechnology and in the growing potential for innovative applications in different industries. With its application-oriented focus on 'Drug Development', 'Food & Nutrition' and 'Industrial Biotechnology', the 5th 'Forum Life Science' has become one of the leading European Life Science events.

In his opening speech, the Bavarian Minister for Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and

Technology Erwin Huber pointed out that interdisciplinary cooperation is essential for realising innovative technologies and products. He was delighted that the congress brought together experts from companies and scientific institutes, from the pharmaceutical, chemical and food industry.

In the plenary sessions, Dr Alfred Oberholz (Degussa), Dr Helmut O. Maucher (Nestlé), Prof Günther Wess (GSF), Dr Tim Jaeger (Hoffmann-La Roche) and Dr Stephan Feldhaus (Siemens) presented future challenges in Life Sciences such as the need for highly effective medicine, the worldwide increasing demand for food and the use of renewable resources and novel bioprocesses for a sustainable chemical industry. For example, Dr Oberholz emphasised that we are now on the 'eve of a biotech revolution' since the chemical industry will increasingly



Focus on 'Innovations in the Food Industry' (Dr Helmut O. Maucher, Nestlé, left) and on 'Drug Development in India' (Dr Ramani Aiyer, Nicholas Piramal, right)

make use of 'nature's toolset' and will apply enzymes and microorganisms to produce amino acids, vitamins, cosmetics ingredients and biopolymers.

Video streams of the presentations can be viewed on the Congress-TV page of the Bayern Innovativ website (www.bayern-innovativ.de/congress-TV). Bayern Innovativ will shortly be publishing three 'Special Reports' containing detailed information on the sessions.



In the plenary session (from left to right): Prof Josef Nassauer (CEO, Bayern Innovativ), Minister Erwin Huber and Prof Wolfgang A. Herrmann (President, TU München)

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In Depth: Technologies for cell therapy

Enabling regenerative medicine

■ Cell therapy with its potential to initiate regenerative processes brings modern medicine to the next step – even beyond personalised medicine (see Newsletter Ed.3 2006).

Due to their ability to self-regenerate and differentiate into several tissue-specific cell types, adult stem cells have outstanding potential to tackle unmet medical needs in the treatment of diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, stroke, type 1 diabetes, leukaemia as well as cancer and many others.

A vast range of research is conducted at leading Bavarian universities and clinics. For example, an immuno-therapeutic approach via the transfer of T-cells, which are stimulated with tumour antigen, is being taken at the **Department of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Regensburg** and the **Clinic Center 'Rechts der Isar'** at the **Technical University Munich**. The **Institute of Bioprocess Engineering at the University of Erlangen** is working on methods to overcome challenges in the in-vitro expansion of T-cells (see also Forum Life Science Congress-TV). The **Institute of Stem Cell Research at the GSF**

(National Research Center for Environment and Health) in Neuherberg revealed that the glia cells of the brain can function as stem cells and initiated a paradigm change in neurobiology. Several research projects at the **Orthopedic Center for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Würzburg** deal with the potential application of stem cells in tissue engineering and the replacement of tendons and cartilage. Bavarian research networks such as **ForNeuroCell** support interlinkage and diverse cell therapy-focused interactions.

In addition, several Bavarian specialist companies provide technologies which are instrumental for cell-based applications. **P.A.L.M. Microlaser Technologies** in Bernried offers a laser-based system which can be used for non-contact laser micromanipulation of cell and tissue material as well as precise laser microsurgery or microinjection.

The improvement and development of cell cultivation methods is being tackled by companies such as the **Gerresheimer Wilden Group** in Regensburg which developed a 3D cell culture dish in cooperation with **ITEM GmbH** in Garching and

Hepacult which established a technology platform for the isolation, cultivation and preservation of human liver cells. In order to cultivate living cells in large-scale fluidic bed cultures, **Euroferm** in Erlangen uses the principle of encapsulation to protect cells from mechanical impacts when grown under e.g. constant stirring. A similar encapsulation principle with a biopolymer is used by **Cellmed** in Alzenau in order to deliver cells to the site of action without causing an immunological response.

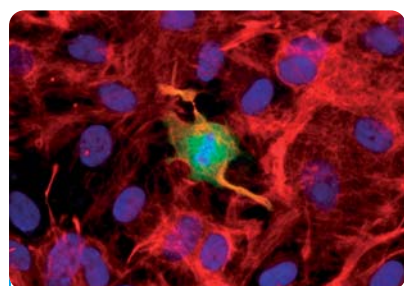
Because high normative and ethical standards are required for research with human tissue, the **HTCR foundation (Stiftung Human Tissue & Cell Research)** was set-up to facilitate the supply of human tissue and in vitro models by creating and maintaining ethical-normative standards. Another partner for haematopoietic cell material is the **'Blood Donor Service'** of the **'Bavarian Red Cross'**.

Further information:
www.lifescience.de/celltherapy

ForNeuroCell

The Bavarian research network ForNeuroCell

■ The development of regenerative cell replacement therapy for acute and chronic diseases of the nervous system such as traumatic paraplegia or Parkinson's disease is the key objective of the Bavarian research network ForNeuroCell 'Adult neural stem cells'. The network is partnered by work



Human neural progenitor cells

groups at the universities of Regensburg, Erlangen-Nuremberg, Würzburg, Munich and at the GSF (National Research Center for Environment and Health) in Neuherberg. The industry partner is **RAPID Biomedical** in Würzburg.

Two main approaches are pursued in parallel: In order to develop new therapeutic strategies and to apply these to e.g. the treatment of Parkinson's disease, ForNeuroCell focuses on the identification and characterisation of receptors, signals and signalling pathways which regulate the preservation, self-renewal and differentiation of neural stem cells. The receptors are also examined as novel targets for drugs activating signalling pathways for the de novo production of neural cells from endogenous stem cells. In parallel, the research network ForNeu-

roCell investigates the in vitro cultivation and production of adult stem cells. The differentiation of the cultured cells can be influenced by targeted culture conditions, and hence the resulting cells can replace perished brain cells after transplantation and take over their function.

Further projects focus on reconstitution of nervous function in the spinal cord by cell transplantation for treatment of paraplegia and on the development of imaging techniques for detection of endogenous as well as transplanted stem cells in the living organism.

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Glia cells function as stem cells

■ The findings of Prof Magdalena Götz (Institute for Stem Cell Research, GSF) that the glial cells of the brain function as stem



Prof Magdalena Götz, Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Research, GSF

cells and can produce new neurons shed entirely new light on the processes that underlie the formation of neurons. Götz also revealed the factors that play a role in the transition from glial cells to neuronal cells and demonstrated how new cell types can develop from cells that are already differentiated. These results bring researchers one step closer to controlling the differentiation of stem cells in the brain in order to develop therapies against degenerative illnesses such as stroke, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

Prof Götz was awarded the 2.5 million

Leibniz Prize in 2007 and also the Familie-Hansen-Prize from Bayer AG. Furthermore, Dr Dieter Chichung Lie, head of the group 'Adult Neural Stem Cells and Neurogenesis' at the Institute of Developmental Genetics at GSF, received the European Young Investigator (EURYI) Award in October 2006 for his research into the formation mechanisms of new neurons in the adult hippocampus.

Further information:

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www.gsf.de;

ForNeuroCell, www.forneurocell.de

Hepacult

Application of human liver cell technology

■ Hepacult – a spin-off of the University of Regensburg founded in 2002 – developed a technology platform for the isolation, cultivation and preservation of human liver cells. The novel procedure of preservation leads to higher viability of cells and improved preservation of functionality and metabolic properties in comparison with conventional methods. As the liver is the central metabolic organ, human liver tissue is used to test the effects of drugs on the human metabolism. In order to characterise potential adverse drug effects, the pharmaceutical industry

already uses these tests in early developmental stages.

Furthermore, in cooperation with partners, Hepacult examines factors relevant to liver regeneration in in vitro models by testing their functionality, specificity and usability for certain pathologies. Factors found in regenerating livers are examined within these models not only in respect of singular cause-effect-interrelations, but also to test particular formulas and hence appraise their market fitness. In terms of liver cell transplantation, cellular therapy for patients suffering from liver disease

may become possible.

Hepacult collaborates closely with the HTCR foundation (Stiftung Human Tissue & Cell Research) to meet the high normative and ethical standards required for research with human tissue. The HTCR, established in 2000, facilitates the supply of human tissue and in vitro models by creating and maintaining ethical-normative standards.

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Cell expansion process technology

■ The Institute of Bioprocess Engineering at the University of Erlangen has several running research projects in the sector of cell-based therapy. One of the most advanced projects is a the bioreactor system applying an immobilisation strategy to produce, for example, patient-individual T-cell re-transplants for the treatment of leukaemia. The principle of a fluidised bed is used in the reactor: in collaboration with the company EuroFerm GmbH in Erlangen, cells are immobilised in 500 µm micro-hollow spheres, kept in

culture with the adjusted immobilisation fluids and expanded up to 100 times. So far, this method has been used successfully for the expansion of Jurkat-T-cells, Adenovirus specific (AdV+) and primary T-cells.

Altogether, this process makes it possible to gain sufficient cell material from the patient without the risk of complicated and error-prone intermediate steps in order to provide T-cell transplants during and after chemotherapy and therefore to increase survival.

The expansion of cells of the heart valve for transplantation, recombinant glycosylated proteins gained from insect cells (baculovirus) and the development of a liver cell reactor for biotransformation and research on the liver metabolism are further areas of interest at the Institute of Bioprocess Engineering.

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Focus on: Bavarian Biotechnology Cluster

Interview with Prof Horst Domdey, Speaker of the Biotechnology Cluster

■ The new Bavarian biotechnology cluster – one of 19 industry and competence clusters – is part of the future programme of the Bavarian State Government.

Prof Domdey, Managing Director of Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH, presents the strategy and goals in an interview with Bayern Innovativ.



Prof. Domdey, Managing Director,
Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH

Prof Domdey, which goals are going to be followed up by the 'Cluster Biotechnology'?

Since biotech in Bavaria is such an astounding success story and has positioned itself as number 1 in Germany, it was actually not so easy to identify areas where the situation is less satisfying but might get improved through an active cluster management. The major problem of Bavaria's biotech is still the lack of investments into start-up companies, not only at the moment when they are founded, but especially also in the first one or two financing rounds. This is a general Euro-

pean problem which we will continue to address but which we will not be able to solve by ourselves. Other areas which we will tackle and where we see a good chance to improve the situation are the fields of industrial (white) biotechnology, the area of clinical studies and the identification of innovative technologies and products through active scouting.

How will the 'Cluster Biotechnology' initiate the further formation of new enterprises in the future?

First of all it will be necessary to identify new technologies and products through the scouting activities mentioned above. Through my involvement in the North Bavarian and Munich Business Plan Competitions I clearly see the immense potential which we have here in Bavaria. Many, if not most of the business ideas and plans, however, still need experimental verification of the underlying ideas before they have a chance to get financed. A funding instrument like GO-Bio (from the BMBF) is ideal to transform scientific results into a commercially attractive business concept. Our goal is to identify research projects with a commercial potential in the Bavarian academic community and help them to get the necessary funding. In the next step we will then actively support those entrepreneurs who were able to deliver the proofs of their concepts and technologies in their endeavour to receive seed money, e.g. from the High-Tech Gründerfonds and / or from Bayern Kapital.

How can the 'Cluster Biotechnology' support already established companies?

In my personal opinion it should actually not be our main goal to have 100 or 200 more biotech companies in Bavaria. What we really need are strong companies with a high number of productive employees per firm. Therefore we will generate contacts between Bavarian biotech enterprises and the scientists who have developed the technologies and projects which we were able to identify through the above mentioned scouting process. The Integrated Communication System ICS which we have created and established a few weeks ago will be a very important component in this partnering process. In addition we will also build an active network of all interested partners in the field of clinical studies to generate the necessary critical mass.

How will Biotechnology in Bavaria evolve over the next 10 years?

I am very confident that the 10 years which we have passed and which were – at least from 2001 to 2005 – rather tough ones will be followed by a period of fruitful expansion with the realization of many good success stories. Bavaria's biotech landscape is also characterized by successful companies which produce revenues of more than € 300 million. We do have a real chance that by 2017 the revenues of the Bavarian biotech industry will be € 1 billion – or even more.

Interview by Stephanie Geier

Key topics of Bavaria's Biotech Cluster

White Biotechnology: In the past months, a network was established. Important decision makers from industry, research and politics have joined in the Cluster Initiative IBP (Industrial Processes with Biogenic Building Blocks and Performance Proteins) to develop a strategic concept which will be submitted to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in a competition for funds from the BioIndustry 2021 program. The submitted IBP short proposal received a positive review and can advance to the final proposal stage.

Active Scouting: To employ active technology and product scouting in closer cooperation with the technology transfer offices at universities and other research institutions is yet another means to find new, interesting, and marketable research ideas and to lead

to commercialization. Here the efforts focus on sparking new collaboration agreements between the biotech/pharmaceutical companies and the academic institutions in Bavaria.

Clinical Studies: Bavaria also enjoys a high degree of recognition for excellent conduct of clinical studies. To make this expertise known worldwide and to improve it with an expansion of the network is also one of the management goals.

Information Platform: All these activities will be supported and complemented by the creation of an integrated communication system (ICS) which will cumulate data from the Bavarian Biotechnology Cluster.

www.cluster-bayern-biotechnologie.de

Merck and Roche strengthen their Bavarian sites

■ Infrastructure, cost structure, quality of education as well as the excellence of its universities and research highlight Bavaria as an attractive and entrepreneur-friendly location for biotechnology with international visibility.

For instance, global players like Merck & Co (MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH in Germany) chose Bavaria as the location for their Europe based headquarters. With the relocation of the headquarters for the regions Europe, Middle East, Africa, Canada (EMEAC) from the US to Haar near Munich, the drug maker is putting the new

company strategy into action. The now Europe-based headquarters therefore enjoy optimised proximity to the market. In total, almost 700 US businesses have selected Munich as their site.

Roche is strengthening its largest European biotechnology centre in Penzberg. In the course of pharmaceutical research restructuring, Roche designated the site a 'Center of Excellence' for therapeutic proteins including monoclonal antibodies. In future, biopharmaceuticals for all therapeutic fields within pharma research will be investigated and developed at the Penzberg site.

Promoting technology cooperation with North America

■ In order to facilitate access to North American biotechnology and pharmaceutical markets and to instigate new collaborations between US, Canadian and Bavarian companies, Bayern Innovativ has initiated several activities.

On the basis of the partnership between Bayern Innovativ and the Biotech City in Laval/Quebec, a company mission was conducted in November 2006 to Greater Montreal which is one of the world's top ten life science cluster.

Within the programme, the Genomics Institute at McGill University, the Armand-Frappier Institute, the Biotechnology Research Institute of the National Research Council as well as companies such as Virochem Pharma (antiviral drug development) and Charles River (preclinical research) were visited. The participants from eight Bavarian companies obtained an excellent opportunity to receive detailed insights in the Montreal life science cluster and to identify initial ideas for future collaborations.

With the objective to match transatlantic biotech opportunities and facilitate market access for European companies in North America, the TRANSBIO project was launched by the EU. Within the project, Bayern Innovativ conceived and organised the European partnering workshop in Munich-Garching in February 2007.



Bavarian participants of the company mission to Quebec at Virochem Pharma

30 companies and institutes from Bavaria and the partner regions (Catalonia, Scotland, Sweden, Austria and Belgium) came together to prepare, discuss and position project ideas for collaboration with North American partners. Over the next few months, selected European joint technologies will be promoted to potential partners in the North American partner regions of Massachusetts/US and Quebec/Canada and vice versa.

In this context, the Bavarian joint pavilion at the BIO 2007 conference in Boston on 6 – 9 May provides an excellent opportunity to intensify existing partnerships and to form new contacts with North American companies.

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News Flash

Roche turns restructuring plans into actions and acquires biotech companies

Although Roche restructuring plans are not fully implemented yet, first transformations are visible. The change-over from a centralized structure to five autonomous 'Disease Biology Areas' lead to the nomination of the Roche site in Penzberg as 'Center of Excellence' for biopharmaceuticals of all five therapeutic fields. Furthermore, Roche acquired Therapeutic Human Polyclonals, Inc. (THP), a company based in Bavaria (Bernried) and California developing monoclonal and polyclonal human antibodies by the means of a platform technology. Roche plans to fully integrate THP into the 'Center of Excellence' in Penzberg. In addition, the division Roche Diagnostics took over two other companies: 454 Life Sciences, a US based company leading in the field of ultra fast DNA sequencing, and BioVeris, a enterprise holding technologies and patents on electrochemiluminescence (ECL) which gives Roche Diagnostics the opportunity to fully exploit the entire immunochemistry market.

MediGene initiates clinical phase II Trial of EndoTAGTM-1

MediGene investigates in this trial the efficacy of EndoTAGTM-1 against the highly aggressive triple receptor negative breast cancer and furthermore collects safety data. 135 patients are to be enrolled in this trial which will be conducted by more than 20 centres in different European countries. The final results of the trial are expected for 2009.

Wilex's RENACAREX in phase III trial

Currently, over 420 of 856 patients planned have been enrolled in the pivotal Phase III study of RENACAREX® (the data of which are required for European and US filing for approval). The international, multicenter and randomised trial examines the efficacy of the antibody RENACAREX® in comparison to placebo.

Winner of phase 2 of the Business Plan Competition North Bavaria 2007

Amongst the ten finalists the following six life science companies could position their business concepts: CALPORTIN Pharmaceuticals (therapeutics for cardiac insufficiency) and Elté Sensoric GmbH (non-invasive blood glucose test system), both based in Würzburg, Entelechon GmbH (quantitative protein analysis) and LipoFIT Analytic GmbH (NMR test systems for di-sease disposition) both located in Regensburg, Spectrix (anticancerous antibodies) in Erlangen as well as SurMoTec GmbH i.Gr. (coatings of implants) in Bayreuth.

Philip Morris Prize 2007 to Prof Cramer

The renowned research prize of the Philip Morris Foundation is awarded to Professor Patrick Cramer, Director of the Gene Center at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich. Cramer's research investigates the transfer of the information stored in genes into proteins by means of the enzyme RNA-Polymerase II. His unique work shows sterical interactions of the involved molecules step by step and into atomic detail.

BioRegions at a Glance

Bio^M



Graduation – passed! Munich Biotech Cluster reports an excellent year 2006

■ Under the title 'Graduation – passed!', Bio^M has issued its report of data and facts all about the Munich Biotech Cluster. Key information comes from a survey which Bio^M, the biotech agency, takes every year among approximately 250 life science companies located at this center of red biotechnology in Germany. The year 2006 – coming after a period of turbulence from 2002 to 2004 – shows how the cluster has matured. Business figures are confirming steady growth for the second year now. This holds true in particular for those who succeeded in further improvement of their market positions – companies in the region that are traded on the stock market and service providers. In small and medium sized biotechnology enterprises the year 2006 is marked above

all by a large increase in the number of up to Phase III clinical research studies which are underway. Meanwhile, there are 35 new drugs under investigation in 57 clinical studies, and another 72 drug candidates in preclinical stages. That continual flow of new substances points to a high degree of maturity in the Munich cluster. The number of collaborations and alliances formed within the cluster has almost tripled in comparison to the year before. The total capital flow has risen from the 2005 level of EUR 229 million to EUR 278 million in 2006. This is stability that helps to generate new jobs, and 2006 shows a rising trend again for the number of staff employed in biotechnology, increasing from 2,150 to 2,360. With this report, 'Graduation – passed!',

the cluster can truly be congratulated for receiving good marks. Guest commentaries by prominent experts included in the well-rounded portrait of the branch also offer outside views on life science industrial developments in the Greater Munich Area with its center at Martinsried. The report was presented to the public at the end of April 2007 together with the Ernst & Young nationwide biotech branch report for Germany, and it is available for download at no cost.

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Corimmun

The interregional establishment of a start-up



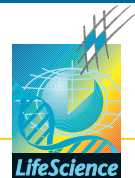
■ Corimmun has its origin in two academic workgroups – one at the University of Würzburg (research groups of Dr Roland Jahns and Prof Martin Lohse at the Rudolf-Virchow Center for Experimental Biomedicine and the Department of Cardiology) and the other at the University of Tübingen (research groups of Dr Dorothea Siegel-Axel and Prof Meinrad Gawaz in the Department of Cardiology). Both groups developed new promising therapeutic peptides which laid the scientific base for the spin-off of the private company Corimmun. With funding by two grants from the 'Go Bio' project sponsored by the BMBF, the idea was transferred into a company and established as Corimmun based in Martinsried, Munich. The founders of Corimmun bring together excellent knowledge and reputation in research and clinical medicine. In addition to this, Corimmun's management team, which comprises Dr Götz Münch and Prof Martin Ungerer, contributes experience from the biotech industry. The pair have

previously built up and successfully merged the biotech company ProCorde with the London-based Trigen to form Trigen Holdings AG with headquarters in Martinsried. The concept of Corimmun consists of an innovative business model and an elegant funding strategy: research activities are carried out in the university departments and at the same time, preclinical drug development is propagated on Corimmun's premises in Martinsried. With these combined activities and experiences, Corimmun comprises all steps from research to drug development and the commercialisation of the two drug candidates COR-1 and COR-2. COR-1 is a peptide drug candidate to prevent the auto-antibody-mediated propagation of heart failure. COR-2 is a soluble recombinant therapeutic protein which prevents foam cell formation in atherosclerotic plaques with the potential to reverse plaque progression. The two compounds are currently in preclinical development.

In addition to the 'Go Bio' funding, Corimmun completed a seed funding round with the 'High-Tech Gründerfonds', Bayern Kapital (Seedfonds) and Bio^M AG at the beginning of this year. 'High-Tech Gründerfonds' has been set up to support the first steps of newly-established enterprises and calls for financial engagement by the founders and co-investors. In the case of Corimmun, the funding totalled an amount of 680,000 Euro for which 'High-Tech Gründerfonds', Bayern Kapital and Bio^M AG acquired company shares and additionally provided a subordinated convertible loan.

In just a year's time, collection of preclinical data is intended to be finalised in order to attract further investors and to complete the next financing round for clinical studies.

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BioMed/ZmK Würzburg & BioMedTec Franken

EXIST programmes successful in Würzburg

■ In order to further encourage the formation of start-ups, to support established companies and to attract entrepreneurs to settle in Würzburg, the regional incubator BioMed/ZmK (IGZ BioMed/ZmK) has bundled activities under the umbrella of 'Life Science in Würzburg'. The initiative was launched in autumn 2005 in co-operation with the University of Würzburg, the local Department of Economic Development and the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs.

In January 2007, the 3-year project 'Gründen von Anfang an' ('founding from the beginning') has been launched which is supported as part of the Exist III programme run by the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology (BMWi). The project will intensify the screening for commercially promising technologies in Würzburg's high-tech institutes, provide relevant tools to scientists in order to succeed in the commercial environment and coach them through the initial phase of their entrepreneurial life.

Two successful recent applications for pre-seed financing within the EXIST-Seed programme originate from the research groups of Dr Schlücker and Dr Seefried of the University of Würzburg. The 'Raman Biomed' team of bio-analysts originates from the group of Dr Sebastian Schlücker from the Institute of Physical Chemistry. Raman Biomed develops nanomarkers, which emit activating laser light according to Raman scattering and can be used for quantitative imaging in medical technology.

A second team benefiting from EXIST-Seed support is rooted in the Orthopedic Center for Musculoskeletal Research at the University. In Dr Lothar Seefried's group, a system for controlled endurance tests of tissue-engineered material and artificial replacements of tendons and cartilage is under development. The team strives for the commercial implementation of a bio-reactor, which simulates the influence of physical and mechanical forces during exercise on the differentiation of mesen-

chymal stem cells and the generation of connective tissue. This novel platform has been developed together with the University of Applied Sciences in Schweinfurt. It is expected to be used for the development of regenerative medicine for joints and connective tissue as well as for the evaluation of the effect of drug candidates on tissue repair.

At present the IGZ BioMed/ZmK is accompanying four teams through the EXIST-Seed programme, which has been set up by the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology (BMWi) to support founders from universities to transform their research results into a business. The next application deadline for EXIST-Seed is 31 May 2007.

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BioPark Regensburg

Stable growth and interdisciplinary dynamics

■ At the beginning of the year, BioPark Regensburg GmbH presented its new business figures for the region.

Admittedly, 2006 was shaped by sales and takeovers of companies, but for the first time since 2004 the financing of a new enterprise could be registered. The number of Biotech and Life Science companies remained stable at 39 and the number of employees increased from 1,300 to 1,700. The vitality of the biotech scene in and around Regensburg is also visible in the high demand for lab and office spaces in the new building of the BioPark Regensburg, which is still under construction. After the completed expansion, the centre, with its two buildings offering a total space of 12,000 m², will be fully booked by the summer of 2007.

For further development of biotechnology

and the expansion of the network towards other industries, the BioPark established the Interdisciplinary Agency IA-BIOTECH. In order to evaluate and tap the full potential for the region, the BioPark GmbH contracted the consultancy Capgemini Deutschland GmbH. The project aims at investigating the interdisciplinary potential of and cross-linking biotechnology and synergetic industries in Regensburg and the region of East Bavaria. Industries which are particularly well-suited to forming links with biotechnology include the automotive, chemical, electronic, glass, ceramic, plastics, medical biotechnology, engineering, optical, photonics, textile and environment industries.

The outcome of this project has so far been overwhelming: In the first two workshops 'Biofunctional Surfaces' and

'Molecular Diagnostics / Biochip Technology' and through interviews, a total of 28 potential cooperation initiatives were initiated, including three concrete product ideas.

Based on this success, the IA-BIOTECH has been set up to mediate cooperation between biotechnology companies, academic working groups and companies in other established fields to promote the development of innovative products and the linking of new business sectors in Regensburg and the region of East Bavaria.

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Calendar of Events

May

- 06. – 09.05.2007 **BIO 2007, Boston (www.bio2007.org), Bavaria at the BIO 2007, further information at www.lifescience.de/bio2007**
- 24.05.2007 **Celebration of the 10th anniversary of Munich Biotech Cluster, Munich (www.bio-m.de)**

June

- 10. – 12.06.2007 **BioMed-Biotech-Partnering MiniExpo (with participants from India), Würzburg**
- 13. – 15.06.2007 **BioMech – Applied Biomechanics, Regensburg (www.biomech-regensburg.de)**
- 23.06.2007 **Open Day of the Munich Biotech Cluster, Martinsried / Munich (www.bio-m.de)**

July

- 04.07.2007 **Diagnostics – Automatisierte Verfahren, Munich (www.forum-medtech-pharma.de)**
- 13.07.2007 **Innovationen in der Medizinischen Bildgebung, Erlangen (www.forum-medtech-pharma.de)**

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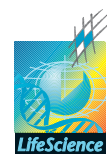
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