



: editorial

Dear Readers,

2008 has been a difficult year for the life sciences sector. A decrease in investors' inclination to finance high-tech companies, as well as long-term marketing procedures slowed down growth rates. Viennese life sciences companies continue to grapple with a difficult economic situation. From our perspective, it is now more important than ever for public institutions to **continue supporting** research and technology ventures.

But there has been good news as well. **Campus Vienna Biocenter** has received 52 Million Euro from the Federal Government and from the City of Vienna to expand its core facilities in research infrastructure. Two new lab buildings "**Marxbox**" and "**Technology Centre Muthgasse**" are under construction. Most welcome were the many headlines concerning Viennese life sciences companies: **Intercell** was awarded the title of a Technology Pioneer at the World Economic Forum and its vaccine against Japanese Encephalitis was launched in Australia in January 2009. **Affiris** was able to announce the biggest license and option contract signed in Austria so far, establishing co-operation with Glaxo-Smith-Kline in relation to their Alzheimer's vaccine candidates. And **Marinomed** launched its first product against common cold. This is just to mention some of the highlights.

2009 will bring many challenges. We hope that by continuing to promote Vienna as an ideal location for doing life sciences research and business we will be able to maintain our contribution to the economic success of companies based in Vienna. We are especially looking forward to this year's **BIO-Europe conference** which we were able to bring to Vienna in November 2009.



Eva Czernohorszky
Michaela Fritz

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Vienna to welcome BIO-Europe 2009

BIO-EUROPE
15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERING CONFERENCE
2009

The largest stand-alone biotech partnering event will be held outside of Germany for the first time.

The 15th annual edition of the BIO-Europe conference, the world's largest stand-alone partnering event in the life sciences industry, will be held in Vienna, Austria on November 2–4, 2009. It will be the first time in the history of the event that the BIO-Europe conference will be held outside of Germany.

▶ Most productive biotech event

With more than 2,200 global decision makers from biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry and finance attending BIO-Europe to identify new business opportunities and develop strategic relationships, the annual BIO-Europe conference is the world's most productive biotech partnering event. Besides pre-arranged partnering meetings, BIO-Europe offers insightful panel sessions, informative company presentations and a dynamic international exhibition.

▶ Enter the future, enjoy the past

In addition to deepening the insight into

the local life sciences scene, this year's event offers the opportunity to get in touch with the glamorous imperial history of the City of Vienna. On Sunday, November 1, **LISA VR** will invite all participants to the opening reception, which will take place at the Schönbrunn palace's Orangery. On November 2, the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth** will open up the Redoute Halls at the Hofburg, the former imperial city residence. On November 3, supported by the **City of Vienna**, the evening event will take place at the town hall. In addition to the supporting institutions mentioned, the **Vienna Centre for Innovation and Technology (ZIT)** will join LISA VR in welcoming BIO-Europe 2009.

Looking forward to meeting you at BIO-Europe in Vienna!

▶ www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope

▶ www.lisavr.at





► **Peptides by kit**

Affiris was founded in 2003 by Walter Schmidt and Frank Mattner, two former scientists who had worked at the Campus Vienna Biocenter. "We developed our basic business idea by formulating the concept of a novel vaccine on a beer mat during an evening out", recalls Walter Schmidt, Affiris co-founder and CEO. Since then, Schmidt and Mattner continued to develop what was to become the AFFITOPE technique later on. "Our AFFITOPE technology is a kit-like technique which allows us to create tailor-made immuno-active peptides very efficiently by concentrating on the actual immunology, thereby omitting the lengthy process of in-depth basic research", Schmidt explains. By designing different peptide versions with similar biochemical efficacy, the Affiris researchers are able to minimise severe adverse reactions in patients, thus making therapies much more convenient.

► **Move to new premises**

Since Affiris' inception, both the federal promotion bank Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) and the City of Vienna's Center for Innovation and Technology (ZIT) supported the company's business activities. Currently, Affiris is in the process of relocating to its new premises in the newly constructed Solaris building, which is a part of the expanding Campus Vienna Biocenter located in the 3rd district of Vienna. CEO Schmidt: "Our offices moved in November 2008, the labs are set to follow this spring."

Affiris: Mega-Deal with GSK signed

GlaxoSmithKline's up-front payment of 22.5 Million Euro initialised an exclusive licence and option agreement with Vienna-based Affiris for the company's Alzheimer's disease candidate vaccines.



front payment of 22.5 Million Euro from GSK and could be eligible for future milestone payments and royalties. The total potential value of the agreement is expected to reach up to 430 Million Euro in the event of full commercial success of the candidate vaccines, royalties not included.

► **Biggest biotech deal**

The agreement between Affiris and GSK is the biggest biotech licence contract involving an Austrian company to date. Central to the deal is Affiris' AFFITOPE technology, which allows peptides with very specific biochemical binding characteristics to be designed. These peptides are ideally suited for developing vaccines against disease-causing proteins such as beta-amyloid, which is regarded as being central to the pathology of Alzheimer's disease.

The Vienna-based biotech company Affiris has signed an exclusive licence and option agreement with GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals. The deal was announced at the end of last year. It grants GSK exclusive rights to Affiris' Alzheimer's disease vaccine programs aimed at treating Alzheimer's by targeting the pathology-inducing beta-amyloid peptide. In return, Affiris has received an up-





The ACIB co-ordinators (from left): Kurt Faber, Georg Gübitz, Alois Jungbauer, Helmut Schwab, Anton Gleder, Diethard Mattanovich
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New competence centre to efficiently develop bioprocesses

Joint interdisciplinary R&D centre ACIB will take an evidence-based approach in developing novel processes and products for the biotech industry.

The Vienna-based Austrian Centre of Biopharmaceutical Technology (ACBT) and the Research Centre of Applied Biocatalysis (A-B) located in the Austrian city of Graz have taken the lead in forming the new Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology, ACIB. The interdisciplinary centre of competence aims to make industrial bioprocess development more transparent, more predictable and therefore faster and cheaper, as well as more feasible economically.

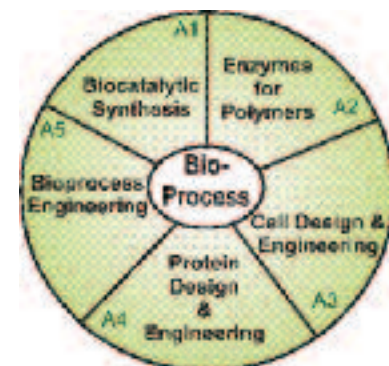
► Evidence-based development

Living organisms and their enzymes are efficient and precise workhorses for the production and modification of chemicals, materials and pharmaceuticals. Consequently, industrial bioprocesses are the key to a bio-based industry, enabling environmentally friendly and economic manufacturing processes. However, developing these processes today largely relies on so-called screenings, which essentially are trial-and-error procedures that optimise effects found on the way. Thus, bioprocess development has so far been time-consuming and expensive, as well as scientifically dissatisfying. By taking a knowledge-based approach, the newly for-

med ACIB competence centre strives for a thorough understanding of cellular processes involving genetic engineering, biomolecular mechanisms or pathway regulation. ACIB members seek to determine predictable fundamental parameters which can be exploited in biotechnological processes. By taking this approach, ACIB is expected to create promising and economically efficient novel methodologies to be employed by the biotech-based industry.

► Multidisciplinary team

ACIB's ambition is to establish itself as a world leading non-profit research organisation, thus becoming the preferred centre for pre-competitive research in industrial biotechnology. To accomplish this, the centre combines the scientific expertise of key researchers from six Austrian universities and their established international network. In addition, 36 industry partners from Austria, Europe and the United States are committed to making a contribution. To further broaden its expertise, ACIB is continuing its search for potential partners and is looking forward to receiving requests from interested parties.



ACIB comprises five different research areas

ACIB is being supported by the city of Vienna's Centre for Innovation and Technology (ZIT). Based on a favourable evaluation it has recently been invited to file a main application with the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) for funding by the agency's COMET programme.



Parties interested in joining ACIB are invited to contact:
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► www.acib.at



Campus Vienna Biocenter to boost R&D infrastructure

Growing research infrastructure, additional state of the art equipment and new services



responsible for recruiting up to 60 highly qualified technical staff.

► Spotlight on some measures

The joint use of the new infrastructure by research institutions and biotech companies located at the campus will enable users to take advantage of the latest technology in their respective field. Among the measures included is the installation of a joint Bioinformatics and Scientific Programming Unit (Bi-SPU). The new unit will take over campus servicing duties from the existing Center for Integrative Bioinformatics (CI-BIV), which will be primarily dedicated to basic research in the future.

Another major step will be the creation of the so-called Imaging Support Group (IMAS) which has been conceived to establish high-resolution microscopy techniques on campus. Besides providing up-to-date equipment for research and development, IMAS will also carry out its own basic research in the field of fluorescence microscopy with the aim of developing novel imaging techniques.



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The Austrian Federal Government and the City of Vienna together have granted 51.7 Million Euro to the Campus Vienna Biocenter to install additional state of the art infrastructure for research and development. Based on the Vision 2020 strategy which was developed by all institutions located at the Campus Vienna Biocenter, an international jury recommended the funding of various measures. LISA VR had been commissio-

ned to co-ordinate the members of the evaluation board and to generally facilitate the evaluation procedure. The jury's recommendations include the setting up of a so-called Campus Services and Facilities body, which will manage the acquisition of technical equipment for biochemical analysis, new computer infrastructure, new plant and animal housing facilities and the installation of additional biobanks. In addition, it will be

Meet LISA VR

18-21 May 2009
BIO
 Atlanta, USA
www.convention.bio.org

13-15 October 2009
CPhi
 Madrid, Spain
www.cphi.com

2-4 November 2009
BIO-Europe
 Vienna, Austria
www.ebdgroup.com/bioeurope