

## Lyonbiopôle, CQDM<sup>1</sup> and Alsace BioValley organize the first joint networking event in Lyon to encourage the emergence of French-Quebec projects.

**Lyon, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2012** – Within the joint call of projects<sup>2</sup> launched on September 5<sup>th</sup> by CQDM / Alsace BioValley and Lyonbiopôle, the first networking event was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, in Lyon. On this occasion, fifteen French-Quebec collaborative project ideas were presented, focusing on the development of new technologies or processes to facilitate the discovery of new drugs.

This event was attended by approximately fifty participants from the universities of Sherbrooke, Laval and Montreal, CQDM officials, Alsace BioValley's delegation and those of the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology (IBMC), as well as a twenty SMEs and academic of Rhône-Alpes region.

*"We are very pleased to welcome Quebec and Alsace delegates in Lyon during this networking event which is essential for the emergence of future French-Quebec collaborative projects and the consolidation of our consortium"* said Isabelle Scarabin, Economic & International Affairs Director at Lyonbiopôle.

Nearly forty B2B appointments were held during this meeting. *"The results of this event are well beyond our expectations. Quebec participants were very satisfied with the number of meetings held on future opportunities and / or consolidation of project ideas that had been previously identified, in addition to other informative meetings that took place during the day that could translate into future collaborations, even outside of this joint call "* says Diane Gosselin, Vice President of Research and Business Development, CQDM.

Following this event, applications must be submitted by February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This joint call of projects will allocate to selected projects a total budget of \$ 1.4M over a period of 3 years by the spring of 2013.

Scientific excellence, applicability and feasibility of the project will be evaluated by external evaluators, selected jointly by the three parties. Particular attention will be paid to the ability to produce applicable results (after funding period), having an immediate impact on biopharmaceutical research as well as the creation of new economic activities in partner regions.

*"These two networking days were very rich. The topics were very diverse: hepatitis C, sepsis, development of screening tools, tissue culture, etc. Many possible themes for our tripartite project, the choice will be hard!"* said Agnes Legol, Director of International Relations, Alsace BioValley.

Signed during the BIO convention in June 2012<sup>3</sup>, the tripartite agreement aims to develop a joint program to strengthen biomedical research in Quebec, Alsace and the Rhône-Alpes region by the alignment of international resources. This joint program fosters creativity, innovation, and multidisciplinary collaboration between academic institutions and private organizations (biotech/CRO).

<sup>1</sup> CQDM : Consortium Québécois sur la Découverte du Médicament

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lyonbiopole.org/Appels\\_a\\_projets/Lyonbiopole-Alsace-BioValley-et-le-CQDM-lancent-un-appel-a-projets-conjoint.html](http://www.lyonbiopole.org/Appels_a_projets/Lyonbiopole-Alsace-BioValley-et-le-CQDM-lancent-un-appel-a-projets-conjoint.html).

<sup>3</sup> June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 PR : The French BIO-clusters Lyonbiopole and Alsace BioValley and CQDM join forces to foster R&D collaboration and emergence of France-Quebec projects

#### About CQDM

The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) is a meeting ground for all stakeholders in biopharmaceutical research. Its principal mission is to fund research projects carried out in partnership between the academic and hospital milieus in the public sector and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in the private sector. An innovative Canadian initiative, the CQDM has a twofold goal: to accelerate the drug discovery process and to develop safer and more effective drugs. Project funding is made possible through contributions from Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly Canada Inc., the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence (BL-NCE), the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Science of Quebec and the Fonds de recherche Québec - Santé (FRQS). For more information: [www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org)

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#### About the Alsace BioValley cluster

As a French cluster dedicated to life sciences and healthcare, Alsace BioValley represents an ideal gateway to develop any bio-business on a European scale in an efficient and swift manner. Located in the Alsace region (east of France), at the heart of Europe, its environment ensures a background particularly favourable to life sciences and healthcare. Evidence is given with the on-site presence of experts of worldwide repute, multiple platforms offering scientific services, not to mention a very lively French-German-Swiss network including 600 Life Sciences & Healthcare businesses, 15 000 researchers and 50 000 live forces open to international.

The mission of Alsace BioValley : To federate all players – companies, research laboratories, hospitals, universities – involved in Life sciences/Healthcare, efficiently supporting their growth in Alsace. The Alsace BioValley cluster offers simplified access to a vast array of resources and specialised services, in particular support in getting established in Alsace, with the use a solidly structured network including institutional and socio-economic partners.

Finally, Alsace BioValley is the French coordinator of BioValley, the trinational cluster involved in life sciences which sweeps away the boundaries of France, Germany and Switzerland – a genuine force serving a successful opening towards Europe and the world.

For more information: [www.alsace-biovalley.com](http://www.alsace-biovalley.com)

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#### About Lyonbiopole

Accredited as a World Class Competitiveness Cluster in 2005, Lyonbiopole, a center of excellence for vaccines and diagnostics based in Lyon, focuses on the fight against human and animal infectious diseases and cancers. It aims to increase the competitiveness of the healthcare companies and the appeal of the Rhone-Alpes region territory, namely in the Lyon-Grenoble area. As an intermediary between the public and private sectors, the cluster works to encourage collaboration in R&D, to assist in the project building, to seek funding, to increase strategic and financial partnerships for the economic and international development of companies, and to provide access to project hosting facilities and shared technological platforms such as Lyonbiopole's Infectious Diseases Center, which opened on 1 April 2009.

[www.lyonbiopole.com](http://www.lyonbiopole.com)

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