



BIO, Boston MA, June 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Booth Lyonbiopole/Alsace BioValley – Pavilion France, Hall B, Booth 1043

**The French BIO-clusters Lyonbiopole and Alsace BioValley  
and CQDM join forces to foster R&D collaboration  
and emergence of France-Quebec projects**

**Lyon, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012** – On the occasion of the international life sciences fair, "BIO International Convention," Lyonbiopole joins the already existing consortium between Alsace BioValley and Quebec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM). A first agreement, signed in November 2010 between the two partners had already helped to initiate several research collaboration between actors in Alsace and Quebec. With these early successes and the special relationship established between Alsace BioValley and Lyonbiopole, a new bilateral agreement has been recently signed between **CQDM and Lyonbiopole**.

This new agreement aims to develop a joint program to enhance biomedical research in Quebec, Alsace and Rhone-Alpes by the alignment of international resources. This collaborative program aims to co-finance research projects between the three regions Quebec, Alsace and Rhone-Alpes.

*« CQDM is known for its great contributions in the field of biomedical research and expertise in the discovery of new therapeutic approaches. To partner with CQDM is for our members and our world-class clusters, a real opportunity for international collaborations which is necessary in the health sector today »* says Isabelle Scarabin, Director of Economic and International Affairs for Lyonbiopole.

*"Our partnership with Alsace BioValley has been successful with, to date, funding for three joint research projects, with high quality and high impact on the biopharmaceutical industry."* said Diane Gosselin, Vice President, Research and Business Development, CQDM. *"We are very pleased to expand the cooperation in the Rhone-Alpes region with Lyonbiopole whose excellence and competitiveness in several areas of research is recognized worldwide."*

Lyonbiopole is a world-class competitiveness cluster focused on the fight against human and animal infectious diseases and cancers. Since 2005, Lyonbiopole accredited **110 R&D projects** representing a **total investment of € 537 million** of which **€ 220 million of public aids** were obtained (state, regional, EC or OSEO). Today, Lyonbiopole gathers **110 members** including 88 SMEs and subsidiaries of large companies, **4 major industrial founders, bioMerieux, Becton Dickinson, Merial and Sanofi Pasteur** and 18 public research centers.

Alsace BioValley is a French competitiveness cluster dedicated to life sciences and health gathering and uniting all actors (companies, laboratories, hospitals, universities) in life sciences and health in Alsace. It aims to support their growth in order to accelerate therapeutic innovation and create jobs.



### September 2012: launch of the next call for projects

The objective of this program is to co-finance research projects aimed at developing new technologies or enablers for biopharmaceutical research, conducted in collaboration between Quebec, Alsace and/or Rhone-Alpes. Promoting creativity, innovation, and multidisciplinary collaboration between academic institutions and private organizations (biotech/research organizations under contract CRO), the tripartite call for project will allocate a **maximum funding of \$1.4 M for a 3 year period.**

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 for biopharmaceutical research. CQDM, Alsace BioValley and Lyonbiopole will evaluate aspects related to intellectual property, potential ethical issues, corporate information as well as any potential risks that could endanger the achievement of a research project.

For example, the three projects already identified in joint calls CQDM/Alsace BioValley are available online: <http://www.cqdm.org/fr/concours-financement/alsace-biovalley-competitions-precedentes.php>.

To create links between researchers from Alsace, Rhone-Alpes and Quebec and to facilitate exchange and collaborations, CQDM, Alsace BioValley and Lyonbiopole will organize networking events.

First contacts have been created during the **6<sup>th</sup> Edition of "Fast Track R&D Partnering with France" (FTRD) on June 18<sup>th</sup>, in parallel of BIO.** This moment of exchange allows each year to establish contacts with international companies and to present international partnerships.

The next networking event will be held in Lyon, in November 2012.



### **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 du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) du Québec 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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