

**For its 7th edition, BioFIT confirms its position as the leading European event
for early-stage innovations in Life Sciences
and announces its alternation between Lille, Strasbourg and Marseille**

The next edition of BioFIT will be held in Marseille on December 10th and 11th, 2019

December 7, 2018, Lille (France) - 1,300 participants from 35 countries, 100 exhibitors, 80 speakers and 2 start-ups from the sector elected as “the most innovative start-ups of the year”.

For its 7th edition, BioFIT, the leading European partnering event for technology transfer, academia-industry collaborations and early-stage innovation in the field of Life Sciences, and also the European marketplace for pre-seed, seed and Series A investment in this sector, announces a unique partnership revealed for the occasion between three powerful ecosystems: the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region, the Grand Est Region and the Hauts-de-France Region. Thanks to an unprecedented partnership between the NHL cluster, BioValley France and Eurobiomed competitiveness clusters, as well as Eurasanté and the local authorities of these three French regions, BioFIT now has a foothold in Marseille (2019), Strasbourg (2020) and Lille (2021).

With over 1,300 registered participants, BioFIT is one of the top 3 European Life Sciences partnering events

Every year the event brings together delegates looking to enter into new R&D and innovation partnerships in Life Sciences. BioFIT is also an essential platform for project leaders and start-ups in the sector to meet pre-seed, seed and Series A investment stakeholders.

In 7 editions, BioFIT has seen its number of participants with a strong growth (from 300 to 1,300), and has convinced, year after year, more and more organisations to host their events within the framework of BioFIT: 3 events hosted in 2017 and 8 events in 2018, including three organised by European project consortia, proof that BioFIT is the reference event in the sector on a European scale.

This year, business meetings were once again at the heart of the event. BioFIT proposed a new activity this year, the “Would be CEO networking lunch”, which aimed to connect **bioentrepreneurs and business developer with much sought after backgrounds with start-ups and companies looking for them**. A way to answer the central question of the BioFIT 2017 plenary conference’s theme: “How can we overcome the shortage of bio-entrepreneurs in Europe?”.

Another activity particularly awaited by BioFIT participants is the Start-up Slams competition, which each year identifies the most innovative start-ups of the year belonging to the Life Sciences sector. Over the 300 start-ups attending BioFIT, 80 applied to present their project to the audience in order to attract potential investors and industrial partners. Among these start-ups, only the 20 most promising ones, selected by a jury of international experts, had the opportunity to pitch on the first European marketplace for early-stage investment in Life Sciences, BioFIT. At the end of the two-day event, 2 start-ups finally share the title of “Most Innovative Life Sciences Start-up of 2018”: **Elasmogen and Peptomyc**.

Elasmogen develops a next generation therapeutic biologics, called soloMERs, for the treatment of inflammatory diseases, in particular ocular diseases – These are essentially naturally occurring small antibody-like molecules that form part of the adaptive immune system of sharks. This technology is innovative given the small size (better

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tissue penetration), stability (novel routes of administration), novel structure (binds cryptic or hidden epitopes on the target) and simple structure.

“Headline our start-up, both as an exhibitor in the Innov’area and as a pitcher, gave us a major role in an event as prestigious as BioFIT: we had the opportunity to present our innovation to a large mixed audience of investors, actors from pharma and biotech companies, and academics.” Caroline Barelle, CEO, Elasmogen

Peptomyc is developing new peptide therapies for the treatment of cancer patients. Their peptides are able to attack Myc, a protein required by cancer cells - but not normal cells -, to divide, thrive and survive treatments. That means that, attacking Myc, it can selectively kill cancer cells without damaging normal tissues. This therapy is innovative for three reasons: nobody has managed to efficiently attack Myc before, it is effective against cancer but gentle on other tissues, sparing the patient from toxic side effects and it is potentially applicable to all types of cancer. It is the opposite of personalised medicine: it is universal medicine.

“It was a great opportunity to gain exposure in one of the biggest events in Europe for early start-ups and investors. In fact, we are now in pre-clinical regulatory studies and, if everything goes well, we should be able to start clinical trials at the beginning of 2020. That requires a next round of investment by the end of 2019. At BioFIT we looked for the chance to meet with smart investors that could be interested in our project.” Laura Soucek, CEO, Peptomyc

However, what makes BioFIT 2018 a pivotal edition in the history of the event is the announcement of a unique partnership between three ecosystems, which will give it a new growth.

Three regions with some of the most dynamic innovation ecosystems in France are joining forces to support BioFIT’s growth

This is a unique partnership signed between three powerful ecosystems (the Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Grand Est and Hauts-de-France regions) that has just been announced at BioFIT 2018 in the presence of Vincent Fert, CEO of HaliuDx and Vice-President of the Opération d’Intérêt Régional Thérapies Innovantes of the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region.

Thanks to an unprecedented partnership between the NHL cluster, BioValley France and Eurobiomed competitiveness clusters, as well as Eurasanté and the local authorities of these three French regions, BioFIT now has a foothold in Marseille (2019), Strasbourg (2020) and Lille (2021). As such, BioFIT will support the dynamics of industry and academic stakeholders in the sector and move towards the status of European leader in its sector: early-stage innovation in Life Sciences. Building on the strengths and assets of each region in which BioFIT is now organised, the event provides its participants with an ideal setting for exchanges fostering interactions and significantly increasing partnership and funding opportunities.

“When we were looking for a city to co-organise BioFIT with Lille, Strasbourg naturally established itself as a choice venue. Open to the international community and a region renowned for the quality of its universities, the effectiveness of its research promotion and tech transfer systems (e.g. Conectus Alsace) and the performance of its competitive cluster (BioValley France), Strasbourg offers a complementarity with Lille. These aspects were the reason BioFIT was organised in Strasbourg as early as 2015, alternating with Lille. The BioFIT event in Marseille in 2019 represents a major step towards becoming the largest European event in the field of early-stage

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innovation in Life Sciences. The trio we are forming strengthens France's position as a leading stakeholder in international competition for early-stage financing and partnerships of innovations in Life Sciences." Etienne Vervaecke, General Manager of Eurasanté and the NHL Cluster.

The Hauts-de-France region has a health sector with 1,000 companies in nutrition and health for 30,800 employees and a value of more than 12 billion euros. Some of the major names in the Hauts-de-France region include AstraZeneca, Bayer, GSK, Lesaffre, LFB, Genfit, Diagast, Genoscreen, AlzProtect, ImaBiotech and Innobiochips.

"Our positioning is clearly to be a pro-business and therefore pro-employment region: it was therefore natural to support this project" explains Xavier Bertrand, President of the Hauts-de-France Region.

The Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region is the second largest French centre for public scientific health research and the second French region for patent applications and clinical trials. It is also one of the most concentrated hospital networks in France with a vast array of research platforms and one of the most dynamic clinical, industrial and academic research activities in France. The region's research laboratories stand out in immuno-oncology with the Marseille Immunopôle cluster, infectious and tropical diseases and clinical microbiology hosted by the Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire Méditerranée Infection (IHU) and rare and orphan diseases and neurosciences.

The Grand Est region is a hotspot for Life Sciences, in a cross-border region, at the heart of Europe. With 420 companies involved in the healthcare industry, the Region benefits from a significant dynamic for the development of the medical technologies sector. It is also characterised by a strong Franco-German-Swiss cooperation culture that brings together a unique density of players of excellence in life and health sciences with 7 Nobel Prize winners, leading universities, world-renowned research institutes, more than 600 companies ranging from innovative start-ups to giants in the pharmaceutical sector (including Lilly, Novartis, Sanofi or Roche).

The Regional Council pays particular attention to the structuring of the health sector by supporting the major structural projects in the region, such as the Nextmed campus, the Medtech Development Grand Est or the PRIeSM e-health platform, while maintaining a strong commitment to the BioValley France competitiveness cluster, which is the driving force behind the regional sector and an essential interface for innovation in health. More generally, the Region excels in the fields of biotechnology and digital health medical devices.

"Strasbourg's Eurometropolis is located in the centre of the Franco-German-Swiss BioValley, characterised by a unique concentration of Life Sciences research institutes and companies. Partnerships between academic and industrial stakeholders are a tradition there. Therefore, hosting an international event, such as BioFIT, dedicated to technology transfer and the creation of economic activities based on public research, made perfect sense. BioFIT enables researchers and companies from the Grand Est to enter into partnerships with partners from all over the world, thus contribute to creating value for the region." Marco Pintore, General Manager of BioValley France.

"By holding an annual international event bringing together over 1,300 high-level stakeholders, BioFIT is a unique opportunity for Marseille and the region to promote its ecosystem and improve its economic and scientific attractiveness. This strategy should attract exogenous companies to our region and significantly increase the amount of private capital injected into companies in our sector thanks to the attraction of foreign funds (90 % of

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capital investors attending BioFIT are not French). We are convinced that BioFIT will help to confirm Marseille's position on the map of European hotspots in biotech and health." Emilie Royere, General Manager of Eurobiomed

Save the date:

The next edition will be held in Marseille on December 10th and 11th, 2019

This Marseille edition of BioFIT is supported by the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, the Metropolis of Aix-Marseille-Provence and the city of Marseille.

About the organisers



Eurasanté is an incubator, a technology transfer tool and a cluster manager in the biotech, medtech, nutrition and healthcare fields in Northern France. It assists French and foreign companies, entrepreneurs, scientists and clinicians with their innovations and development projects.

The regional network includes over 1,000 companies working in Life Sciences and Healthcare. The Health field in the Hauts-de-France region has a total of 30,800 employees. Eurasanté also promotes the Eurasanté Bio-business Park which hosts 7 hospitals, 4 universities, 7 specialised schools, 170 companies and 50 laboratories. Eurasanté also organises four international partnering events intended to increase and improve interaction between academia and industry: BioFIT, NutrEvent, MedFIT, AgeingFit.



The Nutrition Health Longevity (NHL) Cluster is a dynamic network at the intersection of health, biotechnology and nutrition. The NHL Cluster aims to connect academia and industry partners around R&D projects. It focuses on the prevention and treatment of lifestyle-related diseases, such as metabolic and cardiovascular pathologies, neurodegenerative diseases and inflammatory bowel diseases. Its goal is to bring together and support stakeholders from the health and food sectors in designing, developing and financing their future products and processes.



Competitiveness cluster since 2005, BioValley France aims to federate, develop and promote the healthcare sector in the Grand Est region through innovation. The cluster is based on a dynamic network of companies, a leading academic and clinical research, as well as an integrated network of key stakeholders in innovation. BioValley France supports its members in their R&D Innovation approach and gives them access to high value-added expertise, in a market approach. The Cluster contributes to the networking of the various actors and the creation of regional, national and international partnerships. Finally, BioValley France actively participates in the territory's structuring projects, such as Nextmed, which aims to create a Medical Technologies campus in Strasbourg that hosts an entire ecosystem of excellence dedicated to the development of tomorrow's health technologies.



Founded in 2009 by regional stakeholders, EUROBIOMED is a Life Science cluster based in Southern France. Over 285 innovative biotech and medtech companies, as well as leading research institutes, hospitals and universities are members. We lead regional initiatives and help our member businesses and research institutes to innovate, finance, develop and achieve their scientific and business objectives to ultimately improve the treatment and the lives of patients.

Eurobiomed tops European rankings in all stages of innovation: education, basic, translational and clinical research, technological innovation centres, start-ups and industrial success stories. Among Eurobiomed's main assets are the number of people involved, the quality of the network and the mutual trust of its members, which reinforces interactions and facilitates cooperation.

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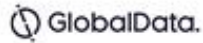
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