

Zurich, 13 April 2010

Swiss Equity biotech day 2010

Swiss Biotech Industry: Dynamic and Robust

- **More than 250 participants attend the Swiss Equity biotech day 2010 where executives from seven publicly-traded and fifteen private companies present their business models and product pipeline.**
- **The latest Swiss Biotech Report 2010 reveals that despite a difficult economic environment in 2009, the turnover of the sector grew by 7% to CHF 9.3 billion, and more than CHF 370 million in new financing was raised by Swiss biotech companies.**
- **Research and development investment in Swiss biotech continues.**

Within the last three years, the Swiss Equity biotech day has established itself as the most important annual Swiss industry event of its kind. This year the conference has registered more than 250 investors, analysts, journalists and biotech branch professionals. Participants have the opportunity to network with company executives and exchange knowledge with their peers. The conference is organized by Swiss Equity magazin in partnership with the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA) and SIX Swiss Exchange.

Some 22 company presentations are framed by two keynote speeches – one presentation is from Dr. Dan Zabrowski, Global Head of Roche Partnering, entitled “Strategic success factors for the biotech industry” and the other is given by Dominik Escher of ESBATech, entitled, “Current financing trends” – as well as by a panel discussion with Dr. Reinhard J. Ambros (Novartis Venture Funds), Nilesh Kumar (Merck Serono Ventures), Dr. Christian Zahnd (Molecular Partners AG) and Dr. Gerhard Ries (BioMedPartners AG).

The Swiss Biotech Report 2010 is also presented at the conference and followed by a panel discussion to analyze the results led by Dr. Dan Zabrowski, Global Head of Roche Partnering, Dr. Reinhard Glück, SBA, and Jürg Zürcher, Partner and Biotechnology Leader EMEIA of Ernst & Young.

The mood leading up to the conference is quite positive. Björn Zern, Editor in Chief of Swiss Equity magazin, comments, “The biotechnology sector is an important economic contributor to the future of the pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland. Even in 2009 when the financial crisis still reverberates through the economy, startup companies continued to raise a

substantial amount of capital. It is a clear indicator that professional investors are convinced of the continued success of this young sector.”

Swiss Biotech Report 2010: A healthy biotech industry in Switzerland

The latest data in the Swiss Biotech Report 2010 reveals that the Swiss biotech industry continued to grow in 2009. The number of people employed in the sector grew to 19,071, up 6% from 2008. Annual turnover also grew to CHF 9.3 billion, an increase of 7% over the previous year. Much of the growth took place among publicly-traded companies, while privately-owned biotech financial results and head-counts remained stable.

The financing environment in 2009 was challenging, much more difficult than the boom years of 2007 and 2006. Nevertheless, Swiss companies were able to raise new capital for a total of CHF 370 million (+62% compared to 2008), mainly in B and C rounds. The largest amount raised was by NovImmune, which attracted CHF 60 million in venture capital. On the investors' side, CHF 100 million in new capital was raised by BioMedInvest II, and Index Ventures raised EUR 350 million for early stage investment. Two companies went public, namely mondoBiotech floated its shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange, while Evolva became public through a reverse merger with Arpida. Venture capital-backed ESBATech was acquired by ophthalmology giant Alcon in a transaction worth up to CHF 600 million.

The report also reveals that 2009 brought setbacks in the product pipeline for several companies, namely Addex, Basilea, Cytos, and Santhera. Difficulties were experienced in late stage clinical trials and applications for approval process. On the positive side, Nitec Pharma achieved approval for Lodotra in Europe, with positive Phase III results for the same product in the USA. In the same period, Basilea reported the approval for marketing of Toctino in several European markets.

“Overall the Swiss biotechnology industry has withstood the world-wide finance and economic crisis astonishingly well, and it remains a dynamic industry. The competitive environment in Switzerland is well-supported through the close ties between leading universities and research-oriented industrial players. It is a strength of the location Switzerland,” comments Dr. Reinhard Glück, President of the Swiss Biotech Association, on the Swiss Biotech Report 2010.

Switzerland has a world-wide reputation for research thanks to a unique combination of dedicated researchers, industrial players, and the contribution of the Swiss National Fund. One leading indicator of the research strength is the number of new patents registered. According to the World Patent Index some 250 biotechnology patents were registered per one million inhabitants in Switzerland. It is a figure that compares well to the US, which

registered only 70 patents per million and Japan with 65 patents per million inhabitants, and significantly higher than 45 patents per million for Germany, and 40 for Great Britain.

The Swiss Federal government has pegged CHF 100 million for investment during the 2008–2011 period, an investment that is already starting to bear fruit. Two years after the establishment of SystemsX.ch, a research cooperation of the 12 most important biotech sector players with a common goal to expedite a paradigm shift from qualitative research towards a quantitative and modeling method of research, some 750 researchers from 250 teams are already active in 62 projects. A first spinoff company, Biognosys AG, is also an early result of the research effort. Emerging from one of the large, integrated research, technology and development projects, Biognosys is focused on detecting disease and contaminants in food, exploiting system biology technologies.

Companies presenting at Swiss Equity biotech day 2010

- Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- Addex Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- Anergis SA
- Arrayon Biotechnology SA
- Cosmo Pharmaceuticals S.p.A.
- Delenex Therapeutics AG
- Evolva Holding SA
- Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- ImmuPharma AG
- Meddiscovery SA
- Molecular Partners AG
- Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A.
- NovImmune SA
- Orphanbiotec AG
- Oxygen Biotherapeutics, Inc.
- Pantec Biosolutions AG
- Pentapharm
- PhenoTec AG
- Redbiotec AG
- Santhera Pharmaceuticals Holding AG
- SeneXta Therapeutics SA
- Synosia Therapeutics AG

Further information about the event can be found at www.biotechday.ch. Furthermore, after the conference, the day's presentations will also be available for download here.

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About Swiss Equity biotech day

Since 2008 Swiss Equity Medien AG, together with the Swiss Biotech Association and SIX Swiss Exchange, organizes the biotech day conference. The annual event offers industry representatives, investors, analysts, and media professional a platform to discuss the trends and current events of the Swiss biotech sector. Both publicly-traded and privately-owned companies can take the opportunity to make their businesses and product better known.

www.biotechday.ch

About the Swiss Biotech Report

The Swiss Biotech Report is an annual publication that covers the Swiss biotech industry. A full version is published every two years, with updates published in the intervening year, and offering an overview of the latest developments in the sector. The Swiss Biotech Report 2010 is published by the members of the Steering Committee, namely Domenico Alexakis, Swiss Biotech Association, Zürich, Oreste Ghisalba, KTI, Bern, Andrea Isler, SIX Swiss Exchange AG, Zürich, Heinz Müller, Eidgenössisches Institut für Geistiges Eigentum, Bern, Antje Runschke, Osec, Zürich and Jürg Zürcher, Ernst & Young AG, Basel.

www.swissbiotechreport.ch

About Swiss Equity Medien AG

Swiss Equity Medien AG is more than a publisher. Along with Swiss Equity magazin and numerous conferences, it offers a unique information platform for professional investors and decision-makers in the finance industry. It is an owner-run media and conference company that is 75% owned by Neuen Zürcher Zeitung since January 2008.