



Attractiveness of France Attractiveness of France Biotechnology

The French biotechnology sector makes the most of a fertile environment, with top quality academic research, the presence of the main players in the pharmaceutical and agribusiness sector and a global R&D support network across France.

The French biotechnology sector is a leading edge, burgeoning sector which today includes over 400 companies, employing around 20,000 people, placing France in number 3 position in Europe behind the United Kingdom and Germany. The full spread of biotechnology market segments is represented in France with companies designing drugs, tools to help in R&D, diagnostic tools, in the healthcare industry or working in the agribusiness or environmental sector. The companies in this sector are characterised by their **strong R&D focus**, pioneered in partnership with academic laboratories or other companies.

3 global or potentially global competitiveness clusters

Sanofi-Aventis is the world's number 3 pharmaceutical laboratory and Europe's number 1

400 biotechnology companies employing around 20,000 people

RESEARCH AND TRAINING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Research in life sciences is a very dynamic arena, with the involvement of research organisations (CNRS, INSERM, CEA, INRA), universities, specialist schools, hospitals and research foundations (Institut Pasteur, Institut Curie); some **18,000 people** are employed in this sector. The national budget allocated to funding research in life sciences was over 2.3 million euros in 2003.

R&D SUPPORT IN FRANCE: A GLOBAL ARRAY

The French government has set up a complete array to support investment, R&D projects and to create a fertile environment to encourage the foundation of innovative companies.

- **To support the initiatives:** making use of the Act on Innovation and Research of 12 July 1999, enabling them to set up their biotechnology companies in very favourable conditions, several researchers specialising in life sciences set up their own companies.

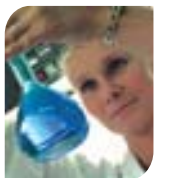
- **To support company creation** using financial assistance for the creation of innovative companies which since its inception in 1999, has led to the creation of 700 start-ups, a quarter of which have been in the life sciences sector, with a quite remarkable 88% survival rate. 30 million euros are invested each year in helping companies set up.

- **To support investment** with public financial aid given by OSEAO-Anvar, the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, whose mission is to relay the national support policy

for innovative R&D projects.

- **Lastly to support innovation:** alongside this scheme, in 2004 the French government founded the Biotechnology Innovation Network (RIB), in order to give more targeted support to innovative and joint R&D projects, which can be conducted either in public or private laboratories or within companies.

An example of foreign investment in 2005: the Swiss pharmaceutical group Novartis chose Huningue, in Eastern France, as the location for one of its production centres for biotechnology-based drugs. With its infrastructures already in place, its location at the heart of "Bio-Valley" on the hub of the French, Swiss and German borders, and a pool of quality staff, the management at Novartis were won over.



"We always find excellent skills in production, research and clinical development here. This is what still makes France the most attractive option."

Christophe Weber, CEO, GSK France.