Press Release

The Biotech Center Zurich in Schlieren changes its name to BIO-TECHNOPARK® Schlieren-Zürich.

Operational and strategic cooperation between Biotech Center Zurich and TECHNOPARK® Zürich for the improved promotion of business start-ups in the field of life sciences in the Greater Zürich Area.

Zürich / Schlieren, 6th April 2010: The Center for Business Start-ups in the field of Life Sciences in Schlieren, near Zürich, is changing its name from Biotech Center Zurich to BIO-TECHNOPARK® Schlieren-Zürich. The BIO-TECHNOPARK® Schlieren-Zürich will in future co-operate closely, within the terms of a license and co-operation agreement for the promotion of business start-ups, with the TECHNOPARK® Zürich Foundation. The two companies will work together at operational and strategic level. BIO-TECHNOPARK® will join TECHNOPARK®s Zürich, Winterthur, Aargau, Luzern and TECNOPOLO® Lugano as the sixth member in the TECHNOPARK®-Alliance.

The organization of the two institutions is very similar. Both centers have a funding body (association or foundation) and an organization for the provision of infrastructure (Gewerbe- und Handelszentrum Schlieren AG/Centre For Trade and Commerce Schlieren AG or TECHNOPARK® Immobilien AG). At the moment, and for the foreseeable future, TECHNOPARK® Zürich will be unable to provide infrastructure in the Life Sciences comparable to that offered by Gewerbe- und Handelszentrum Schlieren. But it does have well coordinated instruments and networks for the promotion of business start-ups and the transfer of technology from academia to industry and BIO-TECHNOPARK® will be able to profit from these in the future.

Life Sciences have developed worldwide into a branch of knowledge with a rapidly growing potential for innovation. Owing to the proximity of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), the University, and an increasing number of successful firms, tangible signs of excellence in this field are fanning out into the Zürich region and beyond. Co-ordination of resources in the drive for innovation can lead to an even better use of this potential. Co-operation is at its most transparent in the promotion of business start-ups in Zürich; it provides the optimum link between stake-holders from academia, politics and business, and significantly enhances the potential for solving problems such as the lack of funding for the early stages of innovative business start-ups.

About BIO-TECHNOPARK® Schlieren-Zürich (formerly: Biotech Center Zurich)

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (ETH) and the University of Zürich are flagging up an impressive number of spin-off establishments in the Life Sciences. Experience shows that start-up firms locate in the vicinity of their particular knowledge base. There is a healthy spread of firms at varying stages of business development in Schlieren, which range from recent start-ups to global players. In 2003 these firms joined forces in the non-profit organization Biotech Center Zurich with the owner of the Wagi site, the town of Schlieren and the Canton of Zurich's Department for Economic Development (Standortförderung) in order to simplify both their internal and external communication and to identify and maximize synergies.

Currently the Centre has 38 member organizations; 31 of these are business start-ups within the Life Sciences. Biotech Center Zurich hit the headlines with the sale of the recent start-up Glycart to Roche for 235 million CHF in 2005, and also last year on the takeover of ESBATech by Alcon, the US ophthalmological firm for about 600 million USD.
BIO-TECHNOPARK®, working closely with its network partners, offers professional support for Life Science firms intent on establishing and extending their business activities in the Greater Zürich Area and beyond. Amongst their most important services are:

- The provision of laboratory, office and storage space and technical infrastructure.
- Advice and support in the establishment of companies and in fundraising.
- Ongoing coaching in business development.
- Promoting exchanges between start-ups to identify and maximize synergies.
- Providing contacts for members, established firms, universities, potential customers and network partners.
- Professional support for the locational support authorities in the settlement of foreign enterprises.
- The organization of events.
- Support for members in the areas of PR and lobbying

Detailed information can be found at: www.bio-technopark.ch

About TECHNOPARK® Zürich

TECHNOPARK® Zürich is privately funded and the leading centre in Switzerland for young entrepreneurs and the transfer of technology. It aims to create permanent jobs. Housed here under the same roof, universities and polytechnics, start-ups and established firms from a wide range of trades and disciplines combine their different competencies. In- house research facilities and suppliers of technology like ETH Zürich, CSEM Zürich and the Hochschule für Technik Zürich support the hands-on application of new technologies in the marketplace. TECHNOPARK® Immobilien AG is owner, landlord and manager of the real estate. The TECHNOPARK® Zürich foundation selects, supports and promotes entrepreneurs in the start-up process and follows diverse projects right through to the implementation of their basic concepts.

Detailed information can be found at: www.technopark.ch

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