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BIO 2008

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

AMSTERDAM

A Sleeping Giant is Waking Up!



AMSTERDAM INNOVATION MOTOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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Amsterdam

BioMed
Cluster

City of
Amsterdam

Find your life sciences partner in Amsterdam BioMed

Amsterdam ranks fifth in the overall rating of best European cities for business (European Cities Monitor 2007, Cushman & Wakefield), due to its languages spoken, the availability of qualified staff, easy access to markets and customers, and national and international transport links. Then again, Amsterdam is more than the financial, service and tourist center it is famous for. Biobusiness is finally booming in Europe, and Amsterdam doesn't lag behind thanks to the strong biomedical knowledge and technology base of the city's universities and research institutes. The Amsterdam Metropolitan Area has a mature company structure in which all type of organizations that together make up the life sciences business chain are well represented and have multiple interactions. Well equipped as well in terms of technology infrastructure, science parks, technology transfer support and funding opportunities, one could say that all ingredients for growth and success in life sciences are available here. Amsterdam BioMed – the regional platform to facilitate and accelerate industry developments – is your point of entry to Amsterdam life sciences.

What financial/tax incentives does Amsterdam offer to life science companies?

The Dutch government offers several appealing subsidy opportunities for foreign investors. Under the R&D Promotion Act "WBSO", a contribution is paid towards the wage costs of employees directly involved in R&D.

The Dutch tax system is transparent and stable and encourages a favorable inward investment climate. In European terms, the Netherlands levies a low rate of tax on profits, as well as an exemption regulation that applies to the profits of (international) companies above a certain level. Tax treaties have been arranged with nearly all major trade countries to prevent double levies, and the Dutch tax inspector is prepared to make advance agreements with new ventures concerning their expected tax burden.

Expats benefit too: 30% of their Dutch income is exempt from tax. Moreover, within the framework of the knowledge migrants' scheme, expats and their families qualify for an accelerated application procedure for residential and work permits.

More than 1,400 foreign companies have set up office in Amsterdam.



What is the lifestyle in Amsterdam?

Amsterdam ranks 4th in the European ranking of most livable capitals (Mercer Human Resource Consulting, 2007).

Thanks to the relatively low cost of living, good and affordable international schools and a ready supply of business and living space, Amsterdam has plenty to offer in material terms. Amsterdam offers all the advantages of a cosmopolitan city and business centre, but on an intimate scale. The work-life balance that results is prized by everyone.

With 174 different nationalities Amsterdam is a true global village. The local professional population is multilingual, multicultural, tolerant, and independent-minded.

What draws life science companies to Amsterdam?

Amsterdam has the highest concentration of life sciences research in the Netherlands with a strong biomedical focus. The city is home to two universities, with academic hospitals, and numerous specialized research institutes. Together they provide industry with easy access to many innovative technologies, huge clinical trial capabilities, patient cohorts, biobanks and many expert centres.

A long tradition of excellence exists in five therapeutic areas: oncology, neurosciences, autoimmunity, and cardiovascular and infectious diseases. More than 70 dedicated Life Sciences companies have already chosen to set up office in Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, including multiple university spin offs. To gain economical spin off of the bio- and medical technology in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area various activities are undertaken, and clustered under the label Amsterdam BioMed. Within the Life Sciences Centre Amsterdam techtransfer opportunities coming from the capital's biomedical research institutes are combined and commercialized together. The institutes involved are the University of Amsterdam/ Swammerdam Institute of Life

Sciences, the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Academic Medical Centre, VU University Amsterdam/ VU University Medical Centre, and Sanquin.

A serious appetite with investors for biotech companies currently exists. Moreover, the number of listed European biotech companies more than doubled (from 10 to 25) since 2004 on the NYSE Euronext European platform. Of all European regions, the Benelux reported the highest number of IPOs by biotech companies in 2007. Within the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area entrepreneurs have access to a number of professional support- and funding options, of which lamstarter and the Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam constitute dedicated

AMSTERDAM HAS THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH IN THE NETHERLANDS WITH A STRONG BIOMEDICAL FOCUS.

and decisive assets for the growth of the regional industry.

The Amsterdam BioMed Cluster is the regional network organization for Life Sciences bringing together businesses, academia, service providers, investors and local government.

By opening up the regional knowledge- and technology base, online via www.amsterdambiomед.nl, national and international parties are invited to do business with us.

The Amsterdam Metropolitan Area offers a number of locations with office and laboratory space specifically aimed at life sciences activities, as well as access to a wide range of services and tools. ■

CITY POPULATION: Amsterdam 744,000, Amsterdam Metro Area: 2,107,000 (Q4, 2007)

TOP THREE REVENUE-GENERATING INDUSTRIES: Business Services, Financial Services, Wholesale (Q4, 2007)

NO. OF LIFE SCIENCE COMPANIES: 70+ dedicated life sciences companies (Q4, 2007)

NO. OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING: 12 (Q4, 2007)

NO. OF LIFE SCIENCE-FOCUSED VCS: 9 (Q4, 2007)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 6.7% (Q1, 2008)