

Innovation Sites: Biotechparks in the BioValley

The BioValley, as a leading biotech region, offers suitable domicile opportunities at reasonable prices for start-ups, spin-offs or mature biotech companies seeking to set up new branches in so-called biotech parks.

A series of profiles of the 13 biotech parks from the BioValley are presented in this years issues. They offer extensive services with state-of-the-art technologies to companies in the region.

The Technology Center Witterswil – TZW



The TechnologieZentrum Witterswil (TZW) is embedded in a rural landscape. A mere 10 km south-west of Basel, it is located neither in Kanton Basel-



Stadt nor in Kanton Baselland but in the Kanton Solothurn!

The many start-ups and spin-offs especially in the area of life sciences which already

are tenants in TZW make TZW an increasingly attractive place to consider for locating a Biotech start-up.

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TZW is fully occupied but has the potential (the vision of its founders) to grow organically according to need. TZW is currently adding a new building complex of approx. 5'000 m² to its present set-up which will host a high tech assembly company (Invacare AG) as the main tenant. Approx. 1000 m² of the available new space is left as «core-and-shell» reserved for local start-ups growing out of their «incubator space» or for new start-ups seeking a harbour.



TechnologieZentrum Witterswil

TZW: a future-oriented technology center in the BioValley

TZW was founded as a spin-off of Novartis in 1997. The former agrobiological research station of Sandoz AG was turned into a technology center for start-ups and spin-offs by its former director, Dr. Jost Harr. TZW was sold in 2000 to a local entrepreneur, U. Nussbaumer, who is now managing TZW as a cost center. With EBM (Elektra Birseck Münchenstein) an additional partner is investing in TZW AG. TZW is expanding according to need and has the land reserves to add several additional buildings.

TZW combines the advantage of a well re-designed and now organically growing site with unrivalled rental costs and is embedded in an attractive area with a high quality of life.

The mix of start-up and spin-off companies and a university institute has already led to several synergies in scientific and economic aspects as well as in sharing experience and exploiting human resource opportunities.

Companies presently headquartered at TZW:

Aponetics AG (Novel Cancer Drugs), Biolytix AG (Molecular Biological Analysis), Covalys AG (Protein Identification), Inst. of Pharm. Biology (University of Basel), TZW Consulting GmbH (Consulting Services), Vitaplant AG (Medicinal Plants and Extracts), Zeptosens AG (Bioanalytical Solutions).

Contact: Dr. Jost Harr, TechnologieZentrum Witterswil AG, tzwconsult@datacomm.ch
www.tzw-witterswil.ch