

PRESS RELEASE



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Business as usual at the Leiden Bio Science Park

Companies at the Leiden Bio Science Park are hardly affected by the financial crisis. There is a large demand for innovative biotech medicines, there are many job opportunities and companies conclude large business deals. New companies establish themselves at the park and the Leiden Bio Science Park foundation is negotiating with several parties looking for new premises.

In the future the demand for new medicines that make a difference, will rise. Biotech medicines tackle disease at its cause, the genetic defect, instead of traditional medicines that just treat it. For instance Leiden based company Galapagos is developing a medicine against rheumatism, based on their new *target discovery platform* technology.

Leiden based companies own a healthy pipeline of new products. For the development of these products they are in constant search of new personnel. For instance at the Lab Career Event, the national career event for lab technicians held in Leiden last week, more than 40 companies presented themselves to 800 students and job seekers. Haifen Hu of Hyphen Projects, who organized the event for the third time: "Despite the economic situation, a large number of employers presented themselves to the students and job seekers. Our career site, BCFjobs.nl, shows the same trend: the number of job opportunities is in fact growing."

Big Pharma is interested to invest in innovative research by biotech SME's. Recently the Leiden based companies Bac, Crucell, Galapagos, Pharming, ProSensa and to-BBB closed large deals. For example, ProSensa made a deal with GlaxoSmithKline for joint research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy. And Johnson & Johnson bought an 18% stake of biotech company Crucell and will collaborate in the development of antibodies and vaccines against influenza and other diseases.

Companies are still willing to invest: recently British company Rahu Catalytics moved into the BioPartner incubator at the Leiden Bio Science Park. Nettie Buitelaar, managing director of the parks development organization, the Leiden Bio Science Park foundation: "We were approached by two different organizations in search for building sites of 14.000 square meter each! So in Leiden now signs of recession; business as usual".

Extra information, not for publication:

Photo caption: The number of job opportunities is growing

Photo credit: Joshua Quicken.

Please contact Hermine Klein for more information:

Leiden Bio Science Park, Hermine Klein, mobile + 31 6 274 111 14