

AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Genopole® seeks proposals for the 2nd edition of its competition for biotech startups in the environmental, agronomic and industrial sectors

A €85,000 first prize

Evry (France), June 11th, 2012

Today, biotechnologies reach well beyond the medical sector. Indeed, we are at the dawn of major, high-impact developments in the fields of biofuels, environmental remediation and biomaterials, just to name a few. As the leading biopark in France, Genopole® supports and encourages these life-changing innovations.

In collaboration with its partners and under the auspices of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Ecology, Genopole® is organizing the second edition of its competition for innovative biotech business startup plans focused on the environment, agronomy and industry. The competition is intended for those who have an innovative project or business idea that they wish to develop and industrialize.

Genopole®, located in greater Paris, is the first French biocluster to create a biotech startup competition for the environmental, agronomic and industrial sectors, a grouping that is central to innovation development and job creation in France. Magpie Polymers (capture of pollutants and precious metals) and PicoSeq (DNA sequencing) were the laureates of the first edition held in 2011.

This second edition's first prize represents a value of €85,000 (a €30,000 grant plus accompaniment of Genopole® Entreprise, six months of accommodation at the biopark and a market study). A second and possibly a third prize of €40,000 (accompaniment and accommodation) may also be awarded according to the quality of the submitted projects.

A strategic competition for Genopole® and beyond

During the launch of the 2012 competition at the Évry site, Thierry Mandon, President, and Pierre Tambourin, Chief Executive of Genopole®, explained the purpose and importance of the event. Locally, Genopole® is looking to attract new businesses and continue its expansion. At the departmental level, the competition falls within the scope of the Essonne county council's economic development project, which is focused on the valorization of ecologically-oriented projects. For France, Genopole® is consolidating the emergence of a biotech branch focused on the environment, agronomy and industry and thus strengthening the renown of French R&D. Finally, the Genopole® competition addresses sustainable development issues at the planetary level, as these biotechnologies promise novel paths toward fossil fuel substitutes and new, more environmentally-friendly industrial processes.

Competition calendar

- **Before September 13th, 2012:** Submission of candidate dossiers
<http://concoursentreprisebiotech.genopole.fr>.
- **October 9th, 2012:** Development seminar at Genopole® for an initial, dossier-based selection of candidates. These latter will have a chance to meet individually with business creation experts who will provide suggestions and guidance for the projects.
- **October 25th, 2012:** Award ceremony. The jury of investors, entrepreneurs and representatives from business creation support and assistance structures will name the laureate(s) in the presence of Genopole® partners and biotech specialists.

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About Genopole®

Genopole® is the leading French science park dedicated to life sciences. Its campus - near Paris - combines academic (CEA, CNRS, INRA, INSERM and the University of Evry-Val-d'Essonne) and private research laboratories, university/higher education facilities, biotechnology companies and an incubator for biotech start-ups. Genopole's® priority is to promote therapy- and environment-focused biotech by providing optimal conditions for company growth and progress in research, the development of large-scale biological activities and to make France a major competitor in the world of science and industry. Additional information is available at www.genopole.fr