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European Biotechnology Crossroads presents conference programme

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Paris, August 5th 2002 - The sixth annual Biotechnology Crossroads, now renamed the European Biotechnology Crossroads, announces today a full programme of international top level conference sessions.

The conference sessions will take place at Lille's Grand Palais, October 15 and 16 2002, and will bring together more than 100 international specialist speakers from research, medical, financial and other sectors of biotech. The conferences will focus on the themes of **ÆScience, Technology and Prospects¹**, **ÆBusiness and the Economy¹** and **ÆSkills and Careers¹**.

A leading figure from the appropriate sector will chair each two-hour session. Other leading players from the sector will also take part in each debate. The convention will be host to a wide range of international players from the biotech industry in Europe and North America, including academic researchers, investors, CEOs, and consultants and journalists specialising in biotech.

³By adding this international dimension to the sixth annual Biotechnology Crossroads we are confident the convention is set to be the main event of the year in European biotechnology,² said Etienne Vervaecke, director of Eurasanté.

The conferences will be organized around three main topics:

Science, technology and prospects

The main focus for this track will be an overview of some important recent technological developments in biotechnology. Discussion will highlight the scientific and clinical advances achieved by biotechnology companies in four crucial therapeutic areas.

Roundtable discussions include:

- € Towards a European Arena for Post-genomics
- € New Tools in Bioinformatics
- € Biochips: New Perspectives
- € New Tools in Proteomics

- € New Tools in Genomics
- € Public Perceptions of Biotechnology: AMGEN SA and IPSOS survey results
- € New Approaches in Oncology
- € Biotech Applications in the Agrifood Sector
- € New Approaches in Neuroscience
- € New Approaches in Cardiology

Business and the Economy

Discussion will highlight recent cases where new models of collaboration between biotechnology businesses and those from the pharmaceutical industry have been implemented. The focus on business and economy will enable better understanding of European financing for and policy on the development of biotechnology.

Discussion will focus on:

- € Contracts and alliances in biotechnology
- € European venture capital investment in biotech: investment criteria for European venture capital in biotechnology companies
- € Attracting press interest for your biotechnology company
- € Alliances between public sector research institutions and biotech companies: a recipe for success
- € Annual General Meeting for France Biotech
- € Patents in life sciences
- € Government support for biotech development across Europe and European policy on national and international biotech

Skills and Careers

Students and researchers from the life sciences will be able to access recruitment information and advice, and information on working abroad.

The Skills and Careers track will provide information on:

- € European qualification equivalence
- € Recruitment: Selection criteria, company needs and search tools
- € European bioincubation and European bioincubation networks
- € Intra-European mobility
- € The future roles of today's scientists: tomorrow's entrepreneurs, business developers, marketing managers and consultants

About the European Biotechnology Crossroads:

The European Biotechnology Crossroads is an annual event that aims to become the main event of the year for the European biotech sector. The sixth annual conference will take place at the Grand Palais, Lille, on October 15 and 16 2002. It will bring together different strands of the French biotech sector as well as a significant number of key figures from biotechnology institutions across the rest of Europe. The European Biotechnology Crossroads comprises:

- € A programme of international-class scientific presentations over two days with more than 100 speakers from 10 different countries
- € The biggest annual professional European biotech show (more than 150 international exhibitors in 2002 representing more than 20 countries).
- € A business convention bringing together European investors and businesses

The European Biotechnology Crossroads is supported by sponsors including: Amgen, ANVAR, Banque Populaire, Caisse des dépôts et consignations, Club ALFA, Crédit du Nord, Ernst and Young, EuropaBio, Aventis Foundation- Institute of France, France Biotech, LFB (French enterprise for biotech research), Jouan, Schering and Tecan.

About Eurasanté:

Eurasanté is the agency for the economic development of biotech-healthcare activity in the Nord-Pas de Calais region. The Eurasanté business and research centre brings together 70 businesses from the biotech and biomedical sectors, seven hospitals, three colleges, 50 research laboratories and more than 3,500 biotech-healthcare professionals.

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