

# Industrial Biotechnology on the move

## Bavarian Network supports Biobased Economy

Industrial Biotechnology is the key technology delivering important impulses for the intended structural change from an oil- to a bio-based economy. The benchmarking of several countries building on 40 different criteria reflecting the situation in the carbohydrate markets, energy supply, political and socio-economic framework conditions shows that the conditions for the future development of Industrial Biotechnology are most favorable in the EU, particularly in Germany (Study of ECO SYS GmbH for FNR, March 2011). Within Germany, Bavaria belongs to the most research-intensive sites worldwide and has a highly developed infrastructure for technology transfer ('Wirtschaftsstandort Bayern', BayStMWIVT, Sept. 2010). Thus, Bavaria offers best conditions for the advanced development of Industrial Biotechnology.

Here, Bio<sup>M</sup> WB GmbH comes into play: With the aim of strengthening Industrial Biotechnology in Bavaria, the company was founded in June 2008. Bio<sup>M</sup> WB is the management organization of the interdisciplinary competence network Bio<sup>M</sup> WB, a winner of the competition "BioIndustry 2021" of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The network Bio<sup>M</sup> WB is a consortium of industrial and academic partners bringing together their complementary skills to develop new processes and products in the sector of Industrial Biotechnology.

Basis of our work is cross linking partners between and beyond branches and sectors for the benefit of knowledge and technology transfer in the field of Industrial Biotechnology. In this course, Bio<sup>M</sup> WB scrutinizes demand of the market, surveys beneficial inventions in academia and identifies adequate matches that may constitute the basis for collaborations to create innovative and sustainable products and/or procedures in a reasonable time. This is the key for the implementation of valuable scientific ideas and inventions to marketable products and processes.

Beyond supporting the network in all matters of technology transfer, Bio<sup>M</sup> WB conducts public affairs, promotes the visibility of the network members and seeks the dialogue with policy and decision makers. Last acquisitions in 2011 to date were twelve new members. Currently, the network involves 80 members in total. Within almost four years, the Bio<sup>M</sup> WB network has mobilized

more than 90 million euros for Industrial Biotechnology encompassing R&D projects, plants and structural measures. In the R&D projects within the network, partners of as diverse branches as biochemistry, microbiology, process engineering, machine and plant engineering are working directly together.

**With the support of Bio<sup>M</sup> WB, collaborations are being established, e. g. between suppliers of agricultural residual material with producers of consumers' goods.**

The original concept of the network was the cost-effective production of bulk chemicals, e. g. acetate, starting with agricultural lignocellulose residues with the aid of "performance proteins". Subsequently, the network's focus was broadened: additional key aspects of activity are process optimization, new biomaterials/biopolymers, production of high value products for the food and cosmetic industry, biofuels etc. In 2011, six R&D proposals of network members with a total volume of more than 11 million euros have been granted. Their focus lies e. g. on the optimization of performance proteins, or on development of new, cheaper and more efficient processes for the production of novel materials and their use in different technical processes. At the moment, two R&D projects are being examined by referees; two more R&D-projects will be submitted soon. Additionally,

one so called “innovation alliance” consisting of 16 industrial and academic partners will be submitted at the end of March to the supportive measure “Innovation Initiative Industrial Biotechnology” of the BMBF. In this alliance, partners of the entire value chain will collaborate to achieve a higher added value of the current use of agricultural residues. Particularly, the collaborators in this alliance belong greatly to industrial branches, in which biotechnological processes are yet uncommon.

In general, the future interest of “final user industry” is to be intensified, especially of the branches automotive, building industry, aircraft and sports & life-style industry.



## CONTACT

---

Bio<sup>M</sup> WB GmbH  
Prof. Dr. Haralabos Zorbas (CEO)  
Am Klopferspitz 19  
82152 Martinsried  
Phone: +49 (0)89-54 04 54 70  
Internet: [www.BioM-WB.de](http://www.BioM-WB.de)

