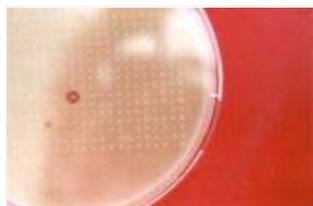


NEWS

BMBF announces winners of the BioIndustrie 2021 cluster competition

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In the future, industrial production processes will make increasing use of microorganisms or enzymes extracted from these. These are predictions of the experts who have written the Cologne Paper.
 Quelle: BRAIN AG

In the course of their evolution, microorganisms have acquired a number of highly interesting and useful characteristics. If these are used in industrial applications, in the nutrition or chemicals industries for example, it is termed 'industrial biotechnology'. In order to promote this field of research and its contribution to the economy, the German Federal Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF) kicked off the cluster competition BioIndustrie 2021 in the autumn of 2006. The winners were finally announced during the European Bioperspectives trade fair, which took place at the end of May in Cologne, Germany.

For industry, biotechnological procedures, which exploit the microorganisms' natural tricks, are the keys to the solution of a set of problems. Chemical manufacturers and food producers increasingly have to deal with shrinking raw material resources and rising oil prices, for example. Here, the use of biotechnological processes can make an important contribution. In comparison to fossil fuel-based procedures, bioprocess techniques are highly developed, more environmentally sound and more efficient. What is more, the development of a whole range of new products will only be possible as a result of biotechnological techniques, for example through the use of targetedly developed, genetically modified microorganisms.

Many studies have thus predicted that from an economic point of view, industrial biotechnology will experience high growth in the coming years. In the Cologne Paper, which was presented at the end of May in Cologne as part of the European Bioperspectives trade fair, a great number of experts have predicted that worldwide turnover for industrial biotechnology will be around 300 billion euros by 2030 (*More information about the Cologne Paper can be found [here](#)*).

Strategic Partnership between industry and the economy

In order to further promote this business activity, the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) initiated the cluster competition BioIndustrie 2021 in the autumn of 2006. The ultimate aim is to boost the strategic partnership between economy and science in general. With this in mind, funding totalling 60 million euros has been put to one side for the coming five years. With additional commitment from participating companies, R&D projects should receive funding topping 150 million euros. The defining goal of the BioIndustrie 2021 competition is to bring together the necessary institutions and disciplines, e.g. life sciences, chemistry, physics, computer science as well as engineering sciences (e.g. process engineering, machine and equipment construction, process and cybernetics, analytics), and to promptly and efficiently organise them into interdisciplinary project teams. Strategic clusters are hoped to emerge out of the framework of the competition, which will merge all the involved parties into a network architecture.

This network will include research establishments and companies, venture capital financiers and banks, which will work together to define core competencies, forms of financing, to develop strategies for future markets and to implement suitable projects in the common interest. As part of the funding initiative, these self-organising clusters will themselves take part in a broader competition, which is intended to strengthen the location of Germany for industrial biotechnology. A total of seven clusters have applied for funding, and now the winners have been decided. The following networks, as announced by BMBF State Secretary Thomas Rachel at European Bioperspectives in Cologne, are amongst the winners:

Each receiving 20 million euros:

- CLIB 2021 - Cluster Industrial Biotechnology?(Coordinator: Degussa GmbH, Creavis Technologies & Innovation, Marl)?*More information: www.clib2021.com*

- Biocatalysis 2021 – New forms of sustainable biocatalysis?(Coordinator: TuTech Innovation GmbH, Hamburg)? *More information: www.biokatalyse2021.de*

Funded with 10 million euros:

- Biopolymers/Biomaterials?(Coordinator: BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Stuttgart)?
More information: www.bio-pro.de

Each receiving 5 million euros:

- Industrial processes with biogene building blocks und performance proteins (Coordinator: BioM Biotech Cluster Development GmbH, Martinsried)?*More information: www.bio-m.de*