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BIO.NRW: what is a “cluster for biotechnology”, how does it work and how can you benefit?”

We are thankful to be in the position to introduce BIO.NRW, the biotechnology cluster of NRW to the DLR community. As the official state cluster for biotechnology in North Rhine-Westphalia, BIO.NRW catalyses the sustainable development of the state’s biotech sector by building on NRW’s strengths in industrial and pharmaceutical biotechnology, and in enabling technologies. BIO.NRW activates cooperation between business, research, investors and policy makers. Within the area of medicine, healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry, the sustainable BIO.NRW.red network has been established and connects the majors contributors. After a comprehensive overview on the biotech science and business location NRW, BIO.NRW’s structure, function and its key activities and services will be briefly presented as they include:

Technology Transfer

We organize events, working platforms and meetings to promote the dialogue between business, research, investors and policy-makers and thereby activate cooperation.

Biotech Business & Science

BIO.NRW compiles comprehensive and current online data-bases of academic institutions and companies active in the life sciences in NRW. Free to access and easy-to-use, these resources are valuable tools for identifying business partners.

Fairs, Exhibitions and Conferences

Companies and academic institutions can generate awareness of their activities locally, nationally and internationally by being a part of the BIO.NRW common stands on fairs, exhibitions and conferences. BIO.NRW also organizes a series of workshops and symposia, called BIO.NRW.academy.

Support of start-ups

The ‘Business Angel Network – BIO.NRW’ helps financing and funding biotech start-ups. In addition, a forum that brings together investment institutions, private investors, business angels and developers provides information about the current NRW biotech scene.

Main Website: <http://www.bio.nrw.de/>

Short CV of Dr. Garthoff

Dr. Bernward Garthoff is the Biotechnology Representative for the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, of the Biotech Cluster BIO.NRW since 2009. Dr. Garthoff studied veterinary medicine at Hannover University and joined Bayer AG in 1976, where he was active for more than 30 years. He had a lectureship for pharmacology at the Ruhr-University of Bochum for several years. In the Pharmaceuticals Business Group of Bayer AG, he held a variety of major positions in research and development, in Germany as well as in the U.S; these were especially concerning the cardiovascular and biotechnology area.

In 1994, Dr. Garthoff joined the top management of Bayer’s Crop Protection Business Group. He has managed the integration process associated with the acquisition of Aventis CropScience and was until recently member of the Board of Management of Bayer CropScience AG. He is member of the Boards of several foundations and also currently Supervisory Board member of Rottendorf Pharmaceuticals GmbH. He has also been chairman of the German Association of Biotechnology Industries (DIB) within the VCI, as well as a member of the Private Sector Committee of CGIAR (World Bank) and a member of the EuropaBio Board, its Treasurer and Chairman of the AgriFood Council of EuropaBio.