

Partnering for Innovation at the Heidelberg Science Day

Heidelberg, 12.09.2018

To foster innovation and to keep providing cutting-edge science and technology, global healthcare companies are more and more closely collaborating with partners all over the world. The BMBF funded '[Health Axis Europe Partnering](#)' (HAEP -) project in which BioRN has the project lead works as interface between innovation seekers and innovators for an effective matching, towards innovation and productive industry-academia relationships.

On Tuesday September 11, BioRN together with Merck organised the 'Heidelberg Science Day', a one-day event focusing on open innovation and the identification of new partners within the life science hot-spot Rhein-Main-Neckar region, with its core in Heidelberg.

"The HAEP project bundles the innovative strengths of science and industry and provides a new tool for international knowledge exchange, leading to facilitated technology transfer between the different players." says Julia Schaft, HAEP project lead. "We are happy that Merck organised the Heidelberg Science Day with us, where innovators from the Rhein-Main-Neckar region were able to pitch their cutting-edge science and technology."

It is based on the understanding that only the amalgamation of national and international clusters provides critical mass of innovative ideas and projects that is able to compete with US clusters and attracts the interest of global healthcare companies.

In the leadup to the event, the HAEP partners (BioRN, Ci3 Cluster Mainz, M²OLIE-research campus Mannheim, and Mannheim University of Applied Sciences) have identified around 50 projects within their networks, based on Merck's proprietary search scopes. Among those, a panel of Merck decision makers short-listed 12 projects, which have been pitched in one-on-one meetings with Merck representatives during the Heidelberg Science Day for potential future partnering with Merck.

The day was closed by an academic-industry round table. Representatives from renowned research institutions in the region (Universities of Heidelberg, the German Cancer Research Center – DKFZ, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory - EMBL, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - KIT, National Center for Tumour Diseases Heidelberg – NCT) and their technology transfer offices had the opportunity to shape together with Merck future strategies and emerging ideas towards an optimal interaction between academia and industry.

This event was one of the steps taken by BioRN and the HAEP project to bundle the innovative strengths of science and industry and facilitated international knowledge exchange between academia and small and medium sized enterprises on the one side and global healthcare companies on the other.

BioRN – Life Science Cluster Rhine-Neckar

BioRN is a life science research and industry cluster dedicated to the development of cell-specific, molecular and personalised innovative treatments. The BioRN Cluster stands for the development, networking, representation and promotion of the life science region into one of the leading life science clusters in Europe.



The cluster-members include renowned academic research institutions such as the Universities of Heidelberg, the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and global health care companies such as AbbVie, Boehringer Ingelheim, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Roche, und Sanofi-Aventis, and about 80 small and medium-sized biotech enterprises. Beyond the members registered in the cluster, BioRN gives access to a wider network via partnerships and collaborations.

In terms of the use of clusters for the internationalization of companies, BioRN has founded, together with Leuven (Belgium), Maastricht (Netherlands) and Copenhagen (Denmark), an alliance for the enforcement of biomedical innovation in Europe, called the Health Axis Europe.



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Kicking off now: Heidelberg Science Day. Innovators from the #HAEP project are going to pitch to Merck representatives. HAEP project supports knowledge transfer between #academia, #startups, #SMEs and #industry. @dkfz @merck @KIT @fraunhoferIMM @PEPperPRINT @uniheidelberg

#Heidelberg Science Day: Merck discussing #OpenInnovation in a round table discussion with academia representatives of the Life Science Cluster Rhine Neckar. Industry-academia relationships, game changers, breakthrough technologies, new drugs. @dkfz @uniheidelberg @embl @KIT @NCT @BiomedX