



FACTS FROM BELGIUM

Embassy of Belgium, Washington DC

www.diplobel.us



BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN BELGIUM

Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Belgium is the best performing country in the OECD in terms of innovation and biotech industry development, based on biopharmaceutical patent applications, drugs under development, venture capital invested, and the number of biotech companies per capita. (<i>OECD, Innovation in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, 2006</i>)
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More than 10,000 (+10% growth over the last decade)
Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More than 140 (7% of European total)Companies represent 16% of European turnover, 10% of biotech R&D expenses in EuropeNumber of companies has grown about 17% annually since 1995Belgian biotech companies figure prominently among the fastest growing companies in Europe.Major players include GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals (Rixensart, Wallonia)
Market Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">About € 3 billion (2006)
Subsectors / Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Healthcare applications (medical-pharmaceutical) (80%)Agro-biology (15%)Industrial/environmental applications (e.g. chemical) (5%)
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proximity of Brussels allows direct monitoring of EU biotech regulations, direct access to information on obtaining EU R&D grants
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most of the Belgian biotech companies are member of Bio.be, representing the biotech industry at the Federal and European levelThe Belgian Interdisciplinary Platform for Industrial Biotechnology is a strategic technology platform on industrial biotechnology
Biotech 'clusters'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Include BioVallée (Charleroi), BioLiège, Flanders Biotech Valley (Ghent-Leuven-Mechelen area), Brussels Biotechnopole
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Belgian start ups were among the first real biotech companies in Europe in the 1980sLocal major pharmaceutical companies were initially main source of industrial funding
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sixteen universities and research centers active in life sciences, and a dozen science parksPresence of an extensive community of world-renowned scientific and clinical institutesR&D areas and science parks, with incubation & innovation centers, are omnipresentReal estate costs in Belgium are among the lowest in Europe
R&D, Tax Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Payroll tax reductions for R&D personnelFinancial investment assistance available at regional levelCorporate tax deductions for R&D projects

Regional Strengths

Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 main universities (ULB, VUB, UCL Brussels Campus), and 5 university hospitals provide a favorable environment for biotech companies • 15 out of 25 biotech companies are active in healthcare R&D • The Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA) has a specific 'healthcare' unit, dedicated to the assistance of biotech companies • 3,000 researchers employed in life sciences
Flanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biotech sector, represented by FlandersBio, is located in the triangle Ghent-Leuven-Mechelen. It employs about 6,000 researchers, with many breakthroughs in genetics and plant sciences • Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology (VIB): 900 scientists engage in basic and applied research in VIB labs and across 4 universities. VIB engages in technology transfer, assistance of start-ups and foreign investors • 'Flanders Biovalley': concentrating on biofuels, bio-enzymes • Pre-eminent companies include Genzyme Inc., Innogenetics, Ablynx, Thromb-X, BayerCropScience, Virco, Tigenix, CropDesign • Number of biotech/life science patents granted by European Patent Office (EPO) is second in Europe, per capita
Wallonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, based in Rixensart, represents 47% of biotech revenue • Other companies include Baxter Healthcare, UCB Group, Eurogentec • Concentrations of universities and large healthcare companies have led to 'biotechnopoles' in Liège (BioLiège), Charleroi (BioVallée), Gembloux-Namur (agri-food), Louvain-la-Neuve • Health care (biopharma, biogenetics, biomolecular science) represents about 80% of biotech turnover Other sectors include agri-food, environment (waste management), service and technology providers

Contacts (U.S.)

Embassy of Belgium www.diplobel.us

Mr. Bart Deelen, Business Development Manager
3330 Garfield Street NW, Washington D.C. 20008
Tel (202) 625-5810, Fax (202) 625-7567
bart.deelen@diplobel.fed.be

Economic & Commercial Office of the Brussels Capital Region (USA) www.brussels-usa.com

Mr. Luc Lippens, Trade Commissioner
1065 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York NY 10018
Tel (212) 399-8522, Fax (212) 399-8517
brusselsusa@msn.com

Wallonia Export & Investment Agency (AWEX) www.investinwallonia.com

Mr. Jean-Pierre Vasaune, Business Development Director
333 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 905, Chicago IL 60601- 4186
Tel (312) 357-6349, Fax (312) 357-6407
jpvasaune@ewallonia.com

Ms. Christine Arnould, Coordination
155 Montgomery Street Suite 207, San Francisco CA 94104
Tel (415) 391-3111, Fax (415) 391-3116
Christine@belgiantrade.org

Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) www.investinlanders.com

Mr. Jan Wauters, Technology Attaché
1065 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor, New York NY 10018
Tel (917) 306-0750
Jan.Wauters@fitagency.com

Contacts (Belgium)

Federal Service of Foreign Investments
www.investinbelgium.fgov.be
invest.belgium@economie.fgov.be

Fiscal Department for Foreign Investments
www.minfin.fgov.be
albert.wolfs@minfin.fed.be

Belgian Biotech Industry Organization (Bio.be)
www.bio.be
secretariat@bio.be

Brussels Enterprise Agency
www.abe-bao.be
info@bea.irisnet.be

Flanders Bio
www.flandersbio.be
info@FlandersBio.be

**DG Technology, Research and Energy (DGTRE)
Ministry of the Wallonia Region**
http://mrw1.wallonie.be/dgtre/biotech
Michel.charlier@mrw.wallonie.be

Useful Links

www.research.be
www.cordis.lu