

Montréal InVivo comments on the government's latest industrial and research and innovation policies

Many measures should have positive effects on the life sciences and health technologies sector

MONTRÉAL, QC, October 17, 2013. Montréal InVivo, the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area, is receptive to the new National research and innovation policy (PNRI) and the Industrial Policy introduced by the Québec government.

The striking increase in base budgets for research and the PNRI's five-year horizon are all factors instrumental in Québec's ability to continue to set itself apart internationally and build a successful and sustainable knowledge-based economy.

The measures included in the PNRI also support training the next generation in research, industrial innovation support, particularly within SMEs, as well as the government's role in integrating innovations on the market. All these dimensions are significant in strengthening the LSHT cluster's ecosystem and are given special attention by Montréal InVivo.

The cluster is also very pleased to see that biotechnologies and personalized health care are included in the government's seven strategic priorities. This shows the importance our sector holds for the future of Québec.

In its industrial policy, the government confirms its intent to support industrial clusters for the next three years and contributes more than \$10 million to critical projects that will be proposed by the clusters.

Furthermore, it is committed to mapping the supply chains of the industrial clusters to support the development of SMEs in these industrial sectors.

Montréal InVivo was particularly impressed by several comprehensive measures carried out by the PNRI given the fact that, even if they are not directly developed for the LSHT sector, their application will have a significant impact on our sector.

- A 25% increase in the base budget of the Fonds de recherche du Québec for the next five years will have a major impact on the Québec health research funding agency, the FRQ-Santé (FRQ-Health);
- Major research platforms continue to be supported and Génome Québec in particular will benefit from such support;
- The PNRI also plans to support sectoral groups dedicated to industrial research; in our sector, the Consortium québécois sur la découverte du médicament and MEDTEQ should provide such funding;
- The Réseau recherche innovation Québec (RRIQ) was created to group together research organizations in Québec to promote the results of applied research and make these research results accessible to companies. The RRIQ will be supported by the creation of the online platform QuébecInnove, intended to facilitate discussion and promote research expertise in Québec;
- Fonds InnoMonde, created to foster partnerships established abroad, will ensure that each funding dollar received from a research partner outside Québec will result in the Québec government contributing to local research. This is one strategy that should benefit the LSHT sector, traditionally very successful in seeking funding outside Québec;
- The PNRI is also rechanneling support to new mobilizing projects with a budget of \$100 million;
- Collaborative and multisectoral research projects will be encouraged and funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). In addition, a call for projects will be launched by the MESRST to create new groups of innovation-focused stakeholders;
- The PNRI expects to create 1,200 practical internships for college and university students as well as a program to support action-based research (e.g.: “living labs”) at the college and university levels;
- The number of research grants for students will be increased and new research grants for interdisciplinary or intersectoral projects will be created;
- To support innovation and create value in SMEs, the Premier Brevet program should give a major boost to companies in our sector that prioritize intellectual property;
- The Passeport Innovation will be created for SMEs to enable them to gain access to the skills of members of the new RRIQ through a bank of hours available for this purpose;
- Through its proposals, the government also aims to encourage the purchase of innovative products, which should have an impact on our companies intent on marketing their technologies in the Québec health system;
- Government statistical data will be made accessible for research purposes because it has strong scientific and analytical potential;

Many continue to be unaware of how these measures are applied. Montréal InVivo will remain vigilant and proactive in its work with the relevant bodies in order to ensure that the LSHT sector greatly benefits from the new PNRI.

About Montréal InVivo

Montréal InVivo is the brand name for the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area. The cluster comprises almost 620 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 subsidiaries of world-class companies, and 41,000 people employed in the sector. A wellspring of great ideas, the cluster includes four universities and ranks first in Canada for the number of research centres.

The secretariat of Montréal InVivo is a non-profit economic development organization dedicated to the creation of wealth. By mobilizing the relevant actors in order to meet crucial challenges such as innovation, and through the actions it undertakes and the implementation of its strategic plan, Montréal InVivo aims to ensure the sustainable development, long-term survival and international renown of the LSHT sector in Greater Montréal.

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