



### Press Release

## **Open innovation model based on renewable carbon for the development of the bioeconomy, TWB inaugurates its new premises and equipment.**

*Toulouse, June 7, 2016 - TWB - Toulouse White Biotechnology, a pre-industrial demonstrator in industrial biotechnology based on renewable carbon, managed by the INRA and jointly administered by the INRA / INSA / CNRS, today inaugurated its new premises and equipment. The exponential growth of TWB since its creation in 2012 has led to its move to new premises for the hosting of numerous projects (57 between 2012 and 2015) and recently acquired advanced equipment. Thanks to its original business model of open innovation applied to the field of industrial biotechnology in order to speed time to market of renewable carbon solutions as a substitute for petrol, TWB was awarded the call for project for the "Investments for the Future Program". With 18 million Euros of contracts signed from 2012 to 2015, it is now very close to the target set for 2019 of 21.8 million Euros.*

### **A "tailored", simple and effective win-win partnership model,**

TWB was designed to facilitate exchanges between public and private sectors in the field of **research and industrialisation of bioprocesses aimed at providing the means to by-pass fossil carbon**. For this, TWB has implemented an innovative model to give rise to collaboration between public and industrial researchers, **to accelerate the transition from basic research to industrialization**, while providing the expertise and equipment not available to its partners to carry out ambitious and value creating projects. The collaborations are supervised by customised contracts establishing clear and simple work rules between the diverse parties.

TWB founding director Pierre Monsan explains: "Our goal is to create value from the results of public research and simplify the conditions of public/private partnerships: contractual time is shortened in accordance with the company's dynamics, the notion of scaling is taken into account from the outset of the project, risky academic research projects are self-funded by TWB, we identify research operators on the one hand and valuation players on the other hand, we avoid the sharing of intellectual property and replace royalties with success bonuses, we offer dedicated laboratories for each project..."

### **Doubling the reception area to cope with business growth**

TWB has moved into new premises, dimensioned to meet its needs in terms of reception capacity (human resources, hosting of R&D projects) and approving the extension of its technical platforms. The acquisition of new equipment now allows TWB to offer a comprehensive continuum, notably for **the production of strains and automated microbial culture**.

Double the surface of the previous premises, 1700 m<sup>2</sup> of surface area is now available to accommodate new facilities and laboratories and host the numerous projects.

A 400m<sup>2</sup> wing is entirely reserved for staff offices. The three remaining wings, of 400m<sup>2</sup> each, are home to TWB's technical platforms, with advanced equipment and laboratories hosting R&D project teams. For example, 15 people from EnobraQ; a start-up created in November 2015 on the basis of a TWB research project are currently working in the TWB premises.

Building on this exponential growth, TWB is already looking to 2020, when a move to an even more spacious premises (3500 m<sup>2</sup>) is scheduled, establishing closer geographical links with the INSA Toulouse teams in the framework of a State Region Contract Plan (CPER) 2015-2020.

### **Financing from regional authorities, the EU (FEDER) and PIA**

The financing of these works and the robotics development of TWB technical platforms has been made possible by funding from 3 TWB partner regional authorities (Regional Council of Languedoc Roussillon Midi Pyrénées, Toulouse Métropole, SICOVAL Urban Community), the European Union in the framework of FEDER and the ANR (initial grant under the PIA - Program of Investments for the Future). The restoration of the premises covered by the ANR grant amounted to €860K. The microbial culture robot totalling €950K, was funded by the Regional Council of Languedoc Roussillon Midi Pyrenees (€272K), the FEDER program (€182K), Toulouse Métropole (€200K), the SICOVAL Urban Community (€100K) with TWBs capital as a supplement.

### **About TWB:**

Toulouse White Biotechnology (TWB) is a preindustrial demonstrator whose goal is to speed up the development of industrial biotechnologies by facilitating exchanges between public research and industry. Its vocation is to contribute to the expansion of a bioeconomy based on the use of renewable carbon in various fields (chemistry-biochemistry, materials, energy, etc.). Various kinds of collaborative research and development projects are proposed, as well as personalized services for businesses.

In March 2011, TWA was awarded the call for project for the Investments for the Future Program (PIA – Programme Investissements d’Avenir). It receives State aid through the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche-National Research Agency). TWB is a UMS (Unité Mixte de Service – Mixed Service Unit) managed by INRA under triple INRA/INSA/CNRS tutelage.

The €18 million Euros of industrial contracts signed in four years of activity reinforces the relevance of TWBs operation and its leading role as an interface in public/private transfers.

More about TWB: [www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/](http://www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/)

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