

Olivier Rolland takes over TWB as Managing Director, succeeding founder Pierre Monsan

TWB, which business focuses on the management of R&D projects in industrial biotechnology, announced the appointment of Olivier Rolland, 38, as Managing Director on January 1, 2019. His experience in major industry groups (Boeing, Total, Michelin) and his international experience, particularly in biotechnology and product development in San Francisco, are key assets for TWB development.



Olivier Rolland, PhD in chemistry (Executive certificates from MIT, USA), has more than 10 year-experience in the bio-economy.

Prior to TWB, Olivier was Director, Sustainable Fuel Strategy at Boeing where he was leading the global strategy to enable innovative regional biofuel value chains. In particular, he led partnerships to set up such value chains in different regions of the world (Middle East, China, Brazil, Europe).

Previously, Olivier spent 5 years in San Francisco with the French energy major, Total. He managed the alliance with Amyris, a start-up leader in synthetic biology. In this context, he led the development of the first aviation biofuel produced on a sugar basis by fermentation, leading to a significant reduction in production costs and commercial flights from 2014. More than 100 researchers have been involved and several tens of millions of dollars invested per year. Thanks to this industrial breakthrough, Olivier Rolland received the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award - USA - EPA in 2014, which highlights the environmental and economic benefits of developing and using a new green chemistry.

Before joining this endeavour in San Francisco, he had been involved in getting Total New Energies Business Unit biotechnology activities off the ground. In particular, he focused on projects to produce bio-sourced molecules in replacement of existing fossil derivatives. As part of this, he was deeply involved in the negotiation of contracts with numerous partners (start-ups, universities, etc.), including R&D collaboration, intellectual property rights and licensing conditions, and equity investments.

To complete this overview, Olivier Rolland began his career at the Michelin Technology Center in 2010. He notably initiated the evaluation of industrial biotechnology processes to produce chemicals used in the manufacture of rubber.

"Promoting a responsible and sustainable economy, from environmental, societal and business perspectives, has been a key driver in all my different professional experiences. By taking over TWB leadership, I am naturally advancing along this path, towards the development of new sustainable production methods with innovative business models, thanks to such an original structure at the fast-growing public-private interface," commented Olivier Rolland, Managing Director of TWB.



About TWB:

Expert in steering scientific projects, TWB contributes to the development of new sustainable production pathways by providing innovating and economically-efficient alternative biological solutions. To accelerate rolling out this transition towards eco-responsible industry, TWB draws on collective intelligence by creating unprecedented links between researchers, industrial groups and investors. By privileging useful, pragmatic and innovative research, TWB meets a two-fold challenge: to effectively address the climate change issue whilst creating economic value.

TWB was created 6 years ago, under the triple umbrella of the French INRA, INSA and CNRS, and with the support of its 50 partners at 1st January 2019 (industrial groups, start-ups, investors, research bodies, local and regional authorities, etc.). Since its creation, TWB has played a role in the launch of more than 145 collaborative research and development projects and to the growth of a myriad of start-ups, which have leveraged a total of over €100M.

More information: <https://www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/en/>

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OXYGEN Press Contact

OXYGEN - Aurélie Mauries / Aurélie Vérin – Phone: +33 532 11 07 31 - aurelie@oxygen-rp.com

TWB Contact

Véronique Paquet - paquet@insa-toulouse.fr