



Press release  
Toulouse, 2 March 2020

## **TWB receives €7 million in state funding towards the next stage of international development in industrial biotechnologies**

**As an affirmation of success, TWB, expert in the management of scientific R&D projects, has received an award of €7 million from the French State towards operational costs spanning the next five years, thus securing the continuation of activity in the industrial biotechnology sector. This grant exemplifies TWB as a model of excellence in France, which, by bringing together and working hand in hand with public and private players, is resolutely committed to meeting the challenges of climate change. The ambition of TWB to become the European leader in industrial biotechnology will be greatly enriched by this new funding.**

### **Renewed funding and confidence**

In 2011 TWB was set up and received initial funding through the *Agence Nationale de la Recherche* (ANR) under the call for proposals of projects for the Future Investment Programme (PIA1) "Health and Biotechnology - Pre-industrial Demonstrators" launched by the French State. Thanks to this grant, (€20 million, of which €10 million was for the operational period 2011 - 2019) the organisation got underway with around thirty public and private partners, under the statutes of a multi-supervisory public structure, INRAE (management body), INSA and CNRS. Today, the TWB international consortium numbers more than 50 members, amongst which are large industrial groups, (ADISSEO, ROQUETTE, TOTAL, L'OREAL, SOLVAY, MICHELIN, BRASKEM and SERVIER), investors (SOFINNOVA PARTNERS, BPI FRANCE, IRDI SORIDEC GESTION), start-ups, competitive clusters, technology transfer and development structures and local authorities. The shared objective of this innovative ecosystem is to accelerate the development of industrial biotechnologies in order to respond to the main societal challenges, including the fight against global warming. This additional €7 million allocation follows the very favourable opinion of the international evaluation jury convened by the ANR at the end of 2019. It demonstrates both recognition of the 2012-2019 TWB track record and confidence in the strategic project for 2020-2025.

### **TWB, a high performance State recognised bio economic organisation**

The jury highlighted in particular the scientific excellence and economic impact as well as the potential of TWB.

*"To date, TWB has acquired more than 150 projects for a total volume of around €35 million, €15 million more than the ANR had set TWB as a target for this first funding period,"* the ANR report points out, affirming the efficiency and performance of TWB.

In addition to the €35 million worth of industrial contracts, TWB has generated 250 direct and indirect jobs and contributed to the raising of more than €100 million by the start-ups that have been supported. Bolstered by experience and success, TWB wishes to continue its development at a European level in order to further contribute to meeting the challenges of climate change as well as the major societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as sustainable nutrition for the planet.

TWB has set its objectives for the coming 5 years: to increase value creation through use of industrial biotechnologies; to retain and develop its network of partners, particularly internationally; to propose a cutting-edge technological offer integrated on a research continuum within a European vision of distributed infrastructure (IBISBA project); to explore high-stake markets for which industrial biotechnologies could provide competitive and "responsible" solutions (agriculture, health, food), and finally to train the next generation of biotechnological engineers thanks to the dedicated "TWB Education" cluster.

*"We are very happy to have once again obtained State support. This additional funding ensures the continuance of TWB which works for the economic development of industrial biotechnologies. It also reinforces the key role TWB plays in generating value by bringing together public and private actors. This achievement is the fruit of the work of all the TWB teams and the partners invested in our network: I would like to thank them all wholeheartedly. Today, we have been given fresh impetus to reinforce our 5-year objective: to become the leader in our field at European level,"* said Olivier Rolland, Executive Director of TWB.

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#### **About TWB:**

**Expert in steering scientific projects**, TWB contributes to the development of new sustainable production pathways by providing innovative and economically sound alternative biological solutions. In order to accelerate the transition towards an eco-responsible industry, TWB has drawn on collective intelligence to drive pioneering links between researchers, industrial groups and investors. By fostering worthwhile, practical and innovative research, TWB meets a two-fold challenge: to effectively address the issue of climate change whilst creating economic value.

Since the creation of TWB (2012), under the triple supervision of INRAE, INSA and CNRS, and, as of the 1st January 2020 strengthened by 53 partners; (industrial groups, start-ups, investors, research bodies, local and regional authorities, etc.); TWB has contributed to the launch of 150 collaborative research and development projects and to the growth of numerous start-ups which in total have raised more than 100M€.

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

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