

Barcelona Science Park opens 19 new laboratories to promote the health industry

- Barcelona Science Park wraps up 2019 with its greatest growth in terms of laboratory space since 2012. This year, it has deployed 983 m² for 19 companies and research centres in the biomedicine and healthcare industry.
- At this moment in time, 15 of the 19 available laboratories are already occupied. Only 109 m², which can host up to 4 companies, 3 of them in the *co-working* format, are still available. Thanks to this model, the Park seeks to offer room to *start-ups* and *spin-offs* at competitive rates.
- The operation involved an investment of €1,679,000, €728,000 of which were put up by an external investor; €451,000 by the actual Park and €500,000 by a company that has undertaken to fit out its own space.
- Through this initiative, Barcelona Science Park – where over 110 public and private organisations and 3,000 professionals work side by side- is consolidated as a pole of attraction for talent and one of the benchmark ecosystems in Europe in terms of scientific innovation, technology and business in life sciences and health.

Barcelona, December 19, 2019. The [Science Park of the University of Barcelona](#) wraps up 2019 with the highest growth in terms of laboratory space since 2012, when Esteve opened its Drug Discovery and Preclinical Development Centre .

In a matter of one year, from December 2018 to December 2019, it has deployed a total surface area of **983 m²** , distributed over **19 laboratories** – thanks to the combination of external and own funding – consolidating its position as one of the benchmark ecosystems in Europe in the area of health sciences and health, and a pole of attraction for *start-ups*, *spin-offs* and SMEs and major domestic and foreign companies.

Currently, **15 of the laboratories of this phase (804 m²) are occupied by 15 organisations**: 8 new companies that are setting up in the Park; 6 companies that were already operating there and are extending their facilities; and a research centre of excellence, the Instituto de Bioingeniería de Cataluña [Bioengineering Institute of Catalonia] (IBEC), which has acquired a new laboratory.

There now only remains **179 m² of available laboratory area** with the capacity to host up to **4 companies, 3 of them in the *co-working*** format, in order to promote access by small companies needing laboratory space at competitive rates.

The total outlay involved in the deployment of this growth is **€1,679,000, €728,000** of which has been put up by an external investor, **€451,000** by the Park itself **and €500,000** by the company GalChimia, which will fit out its own premises.

"The life sciences and health industry is attracting an increasing amount of capital to Catalonia, to the extent that the presence of international investors has multiplied 10-fold over the last five years. This translates into the growth and creation of start-ups and the subsequent demand for premises. In this scenario, the Park is striving to cater to this demand by investing in fitting out laboratories and offices", says **María Terrades, director of the Barcelona Science Park.**

Major growth in the medical devices industry

2019 has witnessed a major demand for premises by medical device enterprises. Many of the fifteen companies that occupy the new laboratories – such as DeepUll, Bioliquid, NewBorn Solutions and Moirai Biodesign, to name but a few– have a core activity focusing on the development of products for this industry. They are *start-ups* or *spin-offs* aspiring to consolidate their activity in the Park over the course of the coming years.

According to Terrades, "the medical device industry is growing substantially in Catalonia, and the Park provides companies with this type of profile with a mature ecosystem comprised of 3,000 professionals which provides them with added value through the interactions and collaborations that can be established with other organisations."

Consolidation of the *pharmaceutical* and *biotech* sector

The increasing presence of companies such as Greenaltech, Hipra and ProteoDesign in the BSP attests to the consolidation of the *pharmaceutical* and *biotech* industry in the BioRegion of Catalonia.

Moreover, companies who provide services to the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and medical device sectors are opening up new laboratories in the Park to secure access to the domestic market. Two of these companies are foreign, Complife (Italy) and NGALab (Italy), and three are from Spain, Arcadia Analítica, Farmaprojects and GalChimia, from Galicia.

■ About Barcelona Science Park

Barcelona Science park (www.pcb.ub.edu) is one of the leading European ecosystems in scientific innovation, technology and business in life sciences and health. Created by the University of Barcelona in 1997, it was the first science park in Spain.

With a surface area of 100,000 m², Barcelona Science Park is home to a highly dynamic community of more than 110 public and private companies and 3,000 researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals (54% of whom are women), engaged mainly in emerging areas of life sciences (biomedicine, biotechnology, medical devices, cosmetics, nutrition, etc.)

One added value that gives the Park an edge is the extensive range of Scientific and Technology Services it offers to promote R&D&I, to the companies installed therein as well as to national and international companies and research groups. These services are complemented by a PCB community revitalisation programme, which seeks to increase interaction among its members and with the innovation ecosystem.

Among its strategic lines, Barcelona Science Park also offers the organisation of scientific publication activities to make research more accessible to citizens, promote dialogue between the general public and researchers, and to encourage young people to pursue a career in science. Currently, as part of its Research in Society Programme, it organises more than 100 annual activities in which around 5,000 people take part.

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