

Press release
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New building for Takeda: Success for Vienna as a location for life sciences

Takeda invests nine-figure sum in Vienna

Vienna (OTS) – Vienna’s appeal as a location for business has been underlined once again by a decision from global biopharmaceutical company Takeda.

The life sciences company Takeda will invest a nine-figure sum in a new biopharmaceutical research and development premises with outstanding technical and environmental credentials in Seestadt, Vienna’s Urban Lakeside. This represents the company’s largest investment in research and development in Austria, where the company has had operations for almost 70 years. Takeda has a workforce of 4,500 in Austria, making it the country’s largest employer in the pharmaceutical industry. The majority of the workforce – around 3,000 employees – are based in Vienna. The new site in Vienna’s Urban Lakeside will accommodate around 250 researchers when it opens in 2025. Their work will focus on using biotechnological methods to develop modern medications and gene therapies for various illnesses in a number of fields including oncology, neuroscience and haematology.

A success story: Vienna as a location for the health industry

“It is wonderful that Takeda is building a new research centre in the Urban Lakeside, thereby consolidating its strengths here in Vienna. This pleasing development shows that the Urban Lakeside, Vienna’s technology hotspot, is extremely attractive to companies engaged in research and development. That fact that a company that has had operations in Vienna for decades like Takeda is also backing our city in future is a positive signal for the overall location and another page in the success story of Vienna as a location for the health industry,” emphasised Dr Michael Ludwig, Mayor of Vienna.

The city’s focus is clear: Vienna wants to attract research, development and production to the city – and is laying the foundations for exactly that. Vienna is home to around 600 life sciences companies who employ around 41,000 employees and value the city’s commitment to research, development and production. Around 50 new companies made the city their home between 2018 and 2020, even during the period dominated by the pandemic.

Peter Hanke, City Councillor for Economic Affairs, said: “Vienna is a hotspot for life sciences in Austria. The latest figures for Vienna show that roughly half of all Austrian jobs in life sciences are based in our city. The industry has grown by one-third in the last six years, generating revenues of €13.3 billion. This also shows that the products made in the life sciences industry are a true export success for Vienna. The fact that Takeda is now constructing a sustainable building for 250 highly qualified researchers and developers in the Urban Lakeside is not only a vote of confidence, it is the result of years of hard work on our part.” The life sciences industry includes companies in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Vienna has a pioneering role

Dr Manfred Rieger, Site Head of Research and Development for Takeda in Austria, said: “Research and development is a vital engine in pharmaceutical manufacturing. I therefore take particular pleasure in announcing Takeda’s largest ever investment in research and development in Austria.”

Vienna is the European base of Takeda Pharmaceutical Sciences, which is part of the company’s global research and development organisation. Takeda promotes ultra-innovative research approaches, developing ideas through to their market launch. Together with highly innovative stakeholders and leading industry partners, the team carries out world-class research and development to identify new treatments in the fields of neurology, gastroenterology, oncology, rare diseases and haematology. Their work focuses specifically on biotechnologically produced medicines, known as biologicals, and gene therapy. Another key priority is the digitalisation of research and development, supported by innovative technologies such as robotics, augmented reality, artificial intelligence and process simulations using digital twins. The new building in the Urban Lakeside will set new international benchmarks, driving forward scientific progress in these fields. Takeda can look back on a long history of research, development and production in Vienna’s Donaustadt district. This new investment in the ‘laboratory of the future’ demonstrates Takeda’s long-term commitment to Vienna.

As Rieger explains: “Takeda Research & Development Austria has also established itself as a pioneer in these fields within Takeda. We’re delighted that Takeda has worked internationally to facilitate these investments in Austria and that, together with our partners, the City of Vienna and UniCredit Bank Austria, we can now present this agreement on the construction of our ‘laboratory of the future’. We will be able to make even better use of our years of expertise and experience in

our new building to develop innovative pharmaceuticals – from selecting a product candidate to all preclinical and clinical phases and through to obtaining approval.”

The City of Vienna’s business promotion agency offers companies meaningful support in the search for suitable premises and with other services such as funding and networking. Takeda has also benefited from the Vienna Business Agency’s extensive services. “Vienna offers the perfect environment for companies in the life sciences sector. A growing number of companies in this field are choosing Vienna as their base of operations. The city offers space for research and development, for start-ups, for established companies and – crucially – for production. A wide range of actors connect and network in Vienna, from start-ups to universities to international companies, with the aim of moving forward through cooperation. Research and development no longer takes place behind closed doors; instead, it is driven by exchange and inspiration,” explained Gerhard Hirczi, Managing Director of the Vienna Business Agency.

Sustainable investment in a green building

“I am proud that we, as financing partner, have been able to contribute to this project, which is so important and points to the future for our long-standing customer Takeda in Austria, just as it does for Vienna as a location for business and research. By investing in the new premises, Takeda is securing jobs for highly qualified researchers and further expanding its expertise. I am particularly proud that this will be a sustainable building, as the topic of sustainability is a crucial element of our business strategy and our core business,” said Christoph Nagel, CEO of UniCredit Leasing, which provided the financing from the Bank Austria Group.

The building has been designed to obtain Total Quality Building (TQB) certification. This entails requirements to ensure improved accessibility and convenience but, above all, means satisfying environmental conditions – from resource-saving energy efficiency and use of sustainable energy sources to greened areas and garden spaces, which will follow the style of the Takeda Garden in Japan. The fact that this will be a green building also fits in with the City of Vienna’s sustainability goals.

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