

New incubator biotope by VIB launches to support biotech startup teams on their journey to success

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[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- Incubator program biotope by VIB launches today to support biotech startup teams looking to impact people's lives through innovation. Biotope will help early entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into viable businesses, with an initial focus on agrifood innovation. The incubator is an initiative by VIB, one of the world's premier research institutes and the driving force behind the vibrant Flanders life sciences ecosystem. Thanks to strategic investment by the Flemish

Government, the European Union, the City of Ghent, and VIB, biotope can offer expert mentorship and a high-tech infrastructure to future biotech leaders from around the world.

Jérôme Van Biervliet, managing director of VIB: "VIB has an internationally recognized track record in building leading biotech companies from the scientific output of VIB. But all good ideas deserve dedicated support, regardless of their origin. With biotope, VIB wishes to provide biotech entrepreneurs with the mentoring, technology, and initial capital they need to grow their ideas into viable businesses. We envisage that biotope will be a catalyst to stimulate entrepreneurship in young talent and will contribute to the acceleration of the Flanders biotech ecosystem."

Biotope supports startups developing sustainable solutions in the agrifood domain, where innovation is desperately needed to help meet the global challenges of climate change, sustainable agriculture, and healthy food. Flanders is at the very heart of one of the world's most innovative and active agrifood regions, providing startups with an ideal launchpad to start their journey as a biotope graduate.

The uniqueness of biotope lies in its personalized approach, and in developing the team,



business, and scientific aspects of a startup. The selected teams receive pre-seed funding and intensive mentoring to build their business skills. The scientists can access high-tech facilities (including labs and greenhouses) where they can develop their technology. During the 12-month incubator program, interactions with international experts, biotech executives, research partners, and professional investors will foster their growth and get them ready for private funding.

Annick Verween, biotope manager: "No science-based business journey is ever the same, which is why the core strength of biotope is our carefully engineered tailor-made program. We limit the biotope cohorts to a small number of startups, to provide each team with highly dedicated, hands-on support. Our mission is to ensure that new startups take root and grow as part of our accelerating agrifood biotech ecosystem. We're very excited to announce the launch of our first call for applicants and are grateful to our partners for making this program possible."

The first call for applicants is now open to biotech startup teams with convincing, innovative agrifood biotech ideas with a transformative potential. Biotope welcomes both local and international teams originating from either academia or industry. Applications are open until April 30th, with the first cohort to be announced by early July 2022.

About Biotope by VIB

biotope by VIB is an incubator program for agrifood biotech startup teams looking to impact people's lives through innovation. Based in Flanders, biotope offers a stimulating environment where the leaders of tomorrow can strengthen both their business skills and technology in a personalized journey. Right from the start of the 12-month program, biotope supplies significant preseed funding and work hands-on with a small cohort, helping teams transform their innovative ideas into businesses ready for seed funding. The incubator supports success through mentoring and access to high-tech facilities, fostering connections to a network of world-class experts, partners, and investors. Biotope helps startups take root and grow in a flourishing life sciences ecosystem. For more information: www.biotope-incubator.com

About VIB

VIB is an excellence-based entrepreneurial research institute in life sciences located in Flanders, Belgium. VIB's basic research leads to new and innovative insights into normal and pathological life processes. It unites the expertise of all its collaborators and research groups in a single institute, firmly based on its close partnership with 5 Flemish universities (Ghent University, KU Leuven, University of Antwerp, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Hasselt University) and supported by a solid funding program from the Flemish government. VIB has an excellent track record of translating basic scientific results into pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications. Since its foundation in 1996, VIB has created 30 startup companies, now employing over 900 people. More information: www.vib.be.

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