

## Barcelona Science Park sees all-time record in new companies and occupancy

- In just over a year, from January 2021 to February 2022, the Barcelona Science Park (PCB) has welcomed 25 new companies, a historic milestone that consolidates the Park as a hub for attracting national and international talent, and one of the benchmark life sciences and healthcare innovation ecosystems in Europe.
- The 25 new companies occupy 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of office and laboratory space and add over 115 employees (30% foreign and 43% women) to a community of over 3,000 people.
- The new companies are mainly start-ups or spin-offs of research centres and hospitals of excellence, with 5 employees each on average, that are strong on innovation and have great potential for growth, but they also include consolidated companies and organisations from all over the world landing in Europe that have chosen the Park.
- PCB also sees maximum occupancy. Of the total surface area for clients (32,955 m<sup>2</sup>), 92% (30,370 m<sup>2</sup>) is occupied. Of the occupied space, 21,061 m<sup>2</sup> is laboratory space and 9,309 m<sup>2</sup>, office space. This is up 9% from 2020. The total investment in 2021 to furnish new spaces was approximately €1.9 million, of which the Park contributed €0,5 million.

**Barcelona, 31 March 2022.** [The Barcelona Science Park \(PCB\)](#), in 2021 and the first two months of 2022, attracted 25 companies and nearly all of its furnished spaces are occupied (98%), consolidating its place among the most important hubs in Europe in the life sciences and healthcare arena.

Currently, 92% of the total surface area for clients (32,955 m<sup>2</sup>) is occupied (21,061 m<sup>2</sup> of laboratory space and 9,309 m<sup>2</sup> of office space) which is up 9% from the end of the previous year. The total investment to furnish new spaces was approximately €1.9 million, of which the Park contributed €0,5 million and the remaining €1.1 million by clients' investment.

Since 2012, when the final building (Clúster II) was completed, the Park began a period of growth, with 3,652 m<sup>2</sup> of new offices and 7,352 m<sup>2</sup> of new labs. The Clúster II building is currently 89% occupied. However, the vacant spaces are still unfurnished.

### 25 entrepreneurial projects with an impact on society

In just over a year, from January 2021 to February 2022, the increase in labs and offices made it possible to welcome 25 new companies from the life sciences and healthcare sector to the Park.

Four of the new companies, **Aptadel Therapeutics**, **MiMark Diagnostics**, **Nuage Therapeutics** and **OneChain Immunotherapeutics**, began their activity at the Park through [BCN Health Booster](#), an accelerator that kicked off in November 2021 and is promoted by the Barcelona Science Park and the Barcelona City Council, with collaboration from Barcelona Activa and support from Biocat.

The others are **AdBio Partners, Devsynthesis, Draconis Pharma, Fertinagro Biotech, IMIDomics, Inbrain Neuroelectronics, Labin, Millhouse International, NIVD-BCN, oloBion, Omniscope, Real Deal Milk, Rejuveron Senescence Therapeutics, Seritech, Solitek, Tyris Therapeutics and Zip Solutions.**

Four new companies joined the Park as associated companies: **G&L Scientific Spain, Hemostatics Pharmaceutical, Gate2Brain and Prous Institute for Biomedical Research.**

The 25 new companies occupy 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of office and laboratory space in a community that now has 130 members.

*“The Park has closed a record year and is kicking off 2022 with new members joining our community at a very strong pace, with various company profiles: highly innovative spin-offs and start-ups with discovery projects for therapeutic products or diagnostic tools, as well as consolidated companies that have chosen our centre or foreign companies that have decided to establish their European subsidiary at the PCB. The Park’s dynamic growth over the past four years is another indicator of the growth and consolidation of the health sciences sector,”* explains Barcelona Science Park CEO **Maria Terrades.**

### **Return on society’s investment in research**

Most of the new incorporations are emerging companies with a great deal of innovation and social impact, small teams, the need for laboratory space and high growth potential. However, the group also included consolidated companies and organisations just landing in Europe that have selected the BioRegion, and specifically the Park. On average, the companies have five employees each, although some have over 30.

Seven of the new companies to join the Park are spin-offs created from technology and projects developed at public universities, hospitals and research centres of excellence: **Aptadel Therapeutics** (Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, IDIBELL), **Gate2Brain** (Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Sant Joan de Déu Foundation, IRB Barcelona and University of Barcelona); **IMIDomics**, (Vall d’Hebron University Hospital-VHIR), **Inbrain** (Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, ICN2); **MiMark** (Vall d’Hebron University Hospital-VHIR), **Nuage Therapeutics** (IRB Barcelona) and **OneChain** (Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute).

### **Female leadership and international dimension**

These 25 companies bring 115 new individuals to the community, 43% of which are women and 30% of which are foreign nationals. This proportion is in line with the existing PCB community, which is currently made up of nearly 3,000 professionals, 55% women and 18% foreigners.

Of the new companies, 65% are led by women, have female founders or CEOs (**Devsynthesis, Gate2Brain, IMIDomics, Inbrain, INVD-BCN, MiMark, Omniscope, Seritech and ZIP Solutions**), or women on the executive team in various positions of authority, such as CSO, CTO or CFO (**ADBio, Aptadel, G&L Scientific, Labin, Nuage, oloBion and Rejuveron Senescence**).

As for the international dimension, seven of the new companies to join the Park are subsidiaries of international groups: AdBio Partners (**France**), Devsynthesis (**India**), G&L Scientific (**United States**), Millhouse International (**South Africa**), NIVD-BCN (**United Kingdom**), Rejuveron Senescence (**Switzerland**) and Seritech Europe (**Thailand**).

## Biotechnology for innovation in health

85% of the companies focus on biotechnology applied to health. 14 are working on developing new therapies, drug delivery systems and innovative diagnostic tools. Seven of these focus on **oncology**: **Aptadel** (cancer treatments with aptamer-based technology); **Gate2Brain** (peptide shuttles to transport drugs across biological barriers like the blood-brain barrier, for paediatric oncology and other indications), **MiMark** (In Vitro Diagnostics-IVD for endometrial cancer and other gynecological disorders), **Nuage Therapeutics** (new drugs for intrinsically disordered targets to fight prostate cancer and other diseases), **OneChain** (new immuno-oncology therapies to treat neoplasms, mainly childhood leukaemia), **Prous Institute for Biomedical Research** (developing proprietary drug discovery software for cancer and neurodegenerative drugs, and investment in other innovative scientific projects), and **Senescence Rejuversen** (new drugs that eliminate senescent cells to treat cancer and age-related diseases).

Seven companies are working on other therapeutic indications: **IMIDomics** (drug discovery and development for immune-mediated inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease and Lupus), **Hemostatics** (searching for solutions to debilitating haemorrhages using an innovative antifibrinolytic agent), **NIVD-BCN** (Nanotechnology applied to In vitro Diagnostics for multiple various pathologies), **Omniscope** (innovative tool for universal early diagnosis that scans the immune system to detect many diseases), **Seritech** (technology with injectable micro-vectors and silk-protein polymers to administer drugs and active ingredients for cosmetics, biomedicine and cardiovascular surgery), **Tyris** (non-viral gene therapy based on DNA, focusing on developing treatments for rare diseases) and **ZIP Solutions** (developing technology to produce recombinant proteins and peptides for the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, veterinary and industrial sectors).

In **medtech**, there is **Inbrain**, which develops and commercialises graphene neuroelectric interfaces and smart neuromodulation systems to treat neurological diseases.

Noteworthy **R&D service** companies include **Devsynthesis** (CRO specialising in multi-step synthesis of complex chemical molecules for drug discovery projects), **Draconis** (preclinical research and development services for new treatments in the fields of inflammation or immunology), **oloBion** (innovative laboratory that offers cutting-edge omics services) and **Solitek** (solid-state development services to bring innovative new solutions to the pharmaceutical, agrochemical and fine chemical markets).

In terms of **Professional Services and Consulting**, new incorporations include **G&L Scientific**, which specialises in regulatory affairs and quality control; and **AdBio Partners**, a venture capital firm that combines early-stage investment in promising new companies and strong business support to strengthen company growth.

## R&D for more sustainable agriculture and agrifood

Finally, there are four companies working in the circular economy and more efficient, eco-friendly production methods: **Fertinagro and Labin** (R&D, production and commercialisation of plant-nutrition products for organic agriculture), **Millhouse** (manufacturing micronutrients and vitamin blends to enrich foods through agricultural innovation in Africa) and **Real Deal Milk** (latest-generation technology to produce milk and dairy products without animals).

### ■ About the Barcelona Science Park

The Barcelona Science Park ([www.pcb.ub.edu](http://www.pcb.ub.edu)) is a benchmark ecosystem in Europe for innovation in science, technology and business in the life sciences and healthcare. Established by the University of Barcelona in 1997, it was the first science park in Spain.

With 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space, the Barcelona Science Park is home to a very dynamic community made up of over 130 public and private organisations and 2,900 researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals (55% women) that carry out their work mainly in emerging areas of the life sciences (biomedicine, biotechnology, medtech, eHealth, etc.).

One thing that sets the Park apart is its wide range of Science and Technology Services to facilitate R&D, available to internal and external, national and international companies and research groups. These services are rounded out with a programme to build community at the PCB that encourages interaction among members and the innovation ecosystem.

The Barcelona Science Park's strategic lines also include hosting scientific dissemination activities to bring research to the people, foster dialogue between researchers and the public, and encourage young people to go into science. As part of its Research in Society programme, the Park currently organises over 100 activities a year with 5,000 participants.

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