



Reinach, 17/03/2022

New hub for life sciences and biotech in Reinach

A new home for biotech and life sciences companies is being built in the leading life sciences centre of Basel. In spring 2022, construction work is scheduled to begin on the Kägen site in Reinach (Basel-Landschaft) for Innovation City (iCITY), a project by the UBS 'Sima' property fund and the facility management company VebeGo. iCITY Reinach focuses on the needs of employees in a hybrid working environment, creating a space that brings together the best of working from home and the office. At the same time, iCITY will address the lack of flexible laboratories and create workplaces for agile, dynamic and innovative companies.

The construction of Innovation City is set to commence in spring. This will create a unique combination of state-of-the-art workplaces and flexible laboratory space in Reinach in the Basel area.

Largest flexible laboratory space in the Basel area

An inspiring and outstanding location for life sciences and biotech companies will be built on a site covering over 10'000 m². The integrated, flexible workplaces and exclusively used office spaces and workstations, which can be rented as needed, are intended to appeal to start-ups from various life sciences sectors, established SMEs and corporations.

Start-ups looking to anchor themselves in the unparalleled health & life sciences (HLS) cluster in the Basel region can apply for the Multi Corporate Accelerator programme. This allows recipients to work rent-free on the Innovation City premises for up to 12 months. In line with the principles of open innovation, Innovation City is intended to promote and accelerate collaboration between established companies, globally renowned research institutes, start-ups, scale-ups and business angels.

New benchmarks

The digital-first concept, which was developed by the facility management company VebeGo together with partners, enables fully digital operation of the building; everything can be controlled via a single app. In addition, VebeGo's subsidiary Move Consultants has developed its own furniture concept together with leading Swiss furniture manufacturers,



based on the principles of the circular economy. As part of this, large stocks of furniture from big companies – typically tables, chairs and shelves from the ‘old’ world of work – are given a new lease of life through second-hand use, upcycling or reuse of parts such as wood or metal frames.

High demand

Ambitious and talented employees prefer a dynamic, agile environment in which they can meet like-minded people, get inspired and thus positively influence their careers. The focus of Innovation City is therefore not, as is usually the case, on the tenants, but instead on the employees and their need for inspiration, networking, interaction and work-life balance.

‘By bringing Innovation City to life, we are addressing a current trend in the health and life sciences sector, but also in the start-up and spin-off scene,’ says Martin Strub, Fund Manager at UBS ‘Sima’. ‘The demand for flexible workspaces from new and established companies that want to quickly become part of the life sciences ecosystem is high,’ adds Giuseppe Santagada, CEO of Vebego Schweiz Holding AG.

The renovation and expansion of the former TechCenter is scheduled to begin this spring, after completion of the approval process, and is expected to be completed in December 2022. The transformation into the pioneering and appealing iCITY Reinach will take place very quickly and noticeably in the coming months. At the same time, scouting and screening for the central Multi Corporate Accelerator programme will also take place across Europe from May 2022, in order to provide a future home here in Reinach for the most suitable start-ups and scale-ups, together with the local, leading HLS industry. The first members of the iCITY community are scheduled to move in during the third quarter of 2022 and the official opening is planned for the beginning of 2023.



About UBS «Sima»

UBS (CH) Property Fund – Swiss Mixed ‘Sima’ (UBS ‘Sima’) is the largest listed property fund in Switzerland, with a real estate portfolio consisting of 357 properties and a volume of around CHF 10 billion. It is also distinguished by numerous innovative restoration and sustainability initiatives. The fund invests in both residential and commercial properties throughout Switzerland, particularly in major cities and large urban areas.

About Vebego

Vebego Schweiz Holding AG, based in Zurich, is one of the leading providers of real estate and facility management services. The subsidiary Move Consultants AG, which is the market leader in data trust, offers strategic real estate and workspace solutions. Together with its subsidiary Move Consultants, Vebego has many years of experience as an operator of technology parks and co-working spaces and is a service provider for numerous life sciences companies. The holding company is a 100% self-financed family business, employs about 8’000 people and generated sales of more than CHF 240 million in 2020.

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