

## Healthcare industry BW

### BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg: 10 years

**More than 120 invited guests came to Stuttgart on 2nd May 2012 to discuss the potential of biotechnology in Baden-Württemberg – and to celebrate! Speakers praised BIOPRO and entertained the audience with anecdotes about the last 10 years as well as congratulating Dr. Ralf Kindervater, CEO of BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH, for the committed and sustainable work his organization has done over the last ten years.**



Wolfgang Leidig, head of department in the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and vice chairman of the BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg supervisory board  
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In November 2002, BIOPRO was established as a new state affiliate with a particular focus on biotechnology – exactly fifty years after the German state of Baden-Württemberg came into being. And the “youngster” still has many plans for the future. Wolfgang Leidig, head of department in the

Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and vice chairman of the BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg supervisory board, is already looking forward to the next celebration in 2027 when BIOPRO will turn a quarter of a century. Leidig highlighted the important role BIOPRO plays in terms of innovation in Baden-Württemberg: “Growth can only be achieved when new and innovative products are constantly being developed and placed on the market. ... In my opinion, BIOPRO is an excellent initiator of well-matched collaborations between companies and institutions from different industrial sectors and involving different technologies. The recognition that breakthrough innovations are usually the result of bringing several sectors or technologies together is increasingly gaining acceptance.”



Prof. Ralf Reski, University of Freiburg and member of the BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg supervisory board  
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Prof. Ralf Reski from the University of Freiburg was the second to congratulate BIOPRO on their success. Ralf Reski has been working with BIOPRO since its inception; he is a member of the company's supervisory board and was also one of BIOPRO's fathers and midwives. Back in 2002, the former Baden-Württemberg government went on a delegation trip to the mecca of biotechnology – California – in order to find inspiration. Over a cocktail, the Baden-Württemberg visitors discussed the situation back home and they all agreed that it was worth investing to make the state's profile more visible than it had been in the past. Following their return, a working group consisting of members of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts and led by Prof. Konrad Beyreuther agreed to set up BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH.

Prof. Konrad Beyreuther, former state councillor for the life sciences, is very happy with the result: “Over the last ten years, the BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg team led by Dr. Ralf Kindervater has accompanied quite a few people on their way to founding their own company, set up numerous



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Beyreuther  
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partnerships between successfully established companies and biotech companies and brought many young people into contact with biotechnological research and innovation. If BIOPRO had not already been set up ten years ago, we would have to set it up now.”

Rainer Fischer from fischerwerke and Prof. Peter Kunz from the Mannheim University of Applied Sciences took the visitors on a personal trip into the past talking about their own unique experiences with BIOPRO. In Fischer’s amusing review, Kindervater even became the star of a cartoon that was specially drawn for the occasion.



Rainer Fischer, fischerwerke GmbH & Co.KG  
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The panel discussion was more serious. Everybody agreed that a lot has been achieved in the Baden-Württemberg biotechnology sector, which although economically small, is highly important due to its huge innovative power, which creates a good environment for success. However, innovation cannot be achieved without money. It is crucial that efforts are supported by internationally competitive start-up conditions, possibilities for company growth in the form of capital as well as adequate legal conditions related to the approval and reimbursement of drugs, which is one of the most important markets for biotechnological products. It is worth noting that other German states have more capital available for such purposes than Baden-Württemberg.



Discussing the biotechnology sector and its future perspectives: (from left to right) Peter Pohl, GATC Biotech, Elmar Bourdon, Mannheim Medical Technology Cluster, Dr. Günther Tovar, Fraunhofer IGB, Dr. Florian Pröll, Biometrics, Harald Fuchs, LBBW Venture Capital and Dr. Uwe Bücheler, Boehringer Ingelheim.  
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Dr. Ralf Kindervater concluded the celebrations by thanking his team for their high level of commitment and creative efforts in dealing with the tasks at hand, which all plays a major role in the success of BIOPRO. He was delighted with the number of former staff members who accepted the invitation to come to Stuttgart and be part of the celebrations.



# Stimulating discussions at &quot;BIOPRO: 10 years&quot;



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## Press release

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