

**DOING BUSINESS IN THE EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE**  
**The newsletter of the Chambers of Commerce of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine**

Q4, 2004

Issue 11

November, 2004

---

**Contents:**

[Chambers of Commerce](#)

- Info sessions on France
- New Chambers' agreement
- Liege and Verviers chambers
- Grünenthal boss to step down

[Business and Industry](#)

- NL/NRW competence network
- Ardennes Outlet Center
- Weerts' Samro trailers
- EUR 70M aachen arcades
- Flanders Europe's future
- Bridgestone in Liège
- Media Markt Liège
- Solar power at Avantis
- Nuth services Jumbos
- EUR 400M Trianel CCGT plant
- Locating in Limburg (B)
- Hyundai-Mobis
- New EUR 20M Matsushita line
- EUR 7M infra for Rothenbach
- Increase in Aachen start-ups
- Eurogentec results 2003/2004
- 2 contracts for Spacebel
- DSM serves 200,000 drinks
- Quanta to expand
- Translucent concrete
- EUR 36M flat glass plant
- Flemish construction market

[Logistics and Infrastructure](#)

- EUR 50m viaduct upgrade
- New approach radar
- TDS automotive now yucaipa
- Iron Rhine alternative
- 225,000 m<sup>2</sup>, EUR 40m Aldi DC
- New Genk DC owners
- Major PFSweb Liège contract

[Life Sciences and Sci-Tech](#)

- Intelligent drug delivery
- PAION closes with EUR 9.8m
- Digital DNA detection
- Sony goes with Aixtron

---

*This project has been made possible thanks to the European Interreg III program for the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, the Région Wallonne (B), the Provincie Limburg (B) and the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen (D).*



## **CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**

### **INFO SESSIONS ON FRANCE**

[COM: Maastricht, October 1]

Dutch exports to France were worth EUR 23,276.5m in 2003, with a fall of 0.52% in respect of 2002. Imports were at EUR 14,946m, which means that France, with its 60 million consumers, is the third most important market for the Netherlands.

Companies interested in opportunities in France with questions about doing business there, can come to a consultation day on December 7, where an individual meetings can be organized with a representative of the Chamber of Commerce from Meurthe-et-Moselle from Nancy in France. The cost of participation and an individual meetings are EUR 30 per company. Please apply by fax or email to:

- Faxnummer 043-3506567
- E-mailadres: [bpiette@maastricht.kvk.nl](mailto:bpiette@maastricht.kvk.nl)

<http://www.maastricht.kvk.nl>

### **NEW CHAMBERS' AGREEMENT**

[COM: Kortesseem, September 21]

The Chambers of Commerce of Hasselt, South Limburg, Aachen, Eupen, Liège and Verviers signed a new five-year cooperative agreement on September 21 in Kortesseem. The Chambers have been working together informally since 1948, but far-reaching European integration has meant that the cooperation has become close and more concrete. This resulted in the signing of the first formal cooperative agreement on October 24, 1994. As a result of the success of the joint program of activities, it has been decided to continue them. The Chambers are concerned with creating optimal conditions for business in Meuse-Rhine. In recent years, this has also been facilitated by EU Interreg funding from the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion and co-financing from the Province of Limburg, the Walloon region and the German state of North-Rhine Westphalia.

The following areas have been selected for cooperation: the shared research project with special reference to the universities and tertiary education, preferably with the cooperation of business and organizations in Meuse-Rhine; shared support for business by the government in Meuse-Rhine; the establishment of projects to encourage development of the regional economy; shared information and PR activities.

Cooperation over the past five years has led to a 70,000-company Euroregional business databank on the Internet, comprising; a biennial publication of the Euroregional infrastructure atlas for potential investors; the establishment of a shared internet site; business lunches under the heading: 'from contact to contract' with more than 1,000 participants; an annual one-day visit to CeBIT with more than 250 participants; trade missions and visits to fairs both inside and outside the Euroregion; shared lobbying activities with the Euroregional, regional, national and EU authorities and the distribution of an e-mail newsletter every 6 weeks to more than 9,000 euroregional companies sourced from the 'Meuse-Rhine Journal'.

<http://www.euregiochambers.com>

### **LIEGE AND VERVIERS CHAMBERS**

[COM: Liège/Verviers, September 2]

The Chambers are busy developing an energy procurement group among their members in response to the liberalization of the energy market. More than 60 businesses participated in a seminar, run by Stéphane Querinjean, a specialist consultant from Thimister. There are default electricity suppliers like ALE, Intermosane and the Province of Liège whose prices for electricity and gas has been liberalized; then, the cost of transport and distribution, which is regulated and regional transport taxes which are also regulated. So eligible customers face a new challenge in negotiating contracts. This is why they are taking joint action with the assistance of the Chambers of Commerce in setting up an energy-pooling program.

<http://www.cciiv.be>

## **GRÜNENTHAL BOSS TO STEP DOWN**

[COM: Aachen, August 15]

Mr Michael Wirtz, the Managing Partner of Grünenthal, the international pharmaceutical company and related companies in Stolberg, has indicated that he will be stepping down at the end of this year. As of January 1, Mr Wirtz will join the Advisory Council of the Grünenthal companies and also that of Dalli-Werke Mäurer+ Wirtz. The new managing partners will be Messrs Stefan Genten and Sebastian Wirtz. This change has been approved by the Advisory Council for January 1. The management of the company will then include Messrs Genten and Wirtz and also Dr Eric-Paul Pâques and Mr Robert Koremans. Michael Wirtz is also the president of the Aachen Chamber of Commerce. The Grünenthal business is a family business, whose origin goes back more than 300 years. <http://www.gruenenthal.de>

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

### **NL/NRW COMPETENCE NETWORK**

[BIZ: Düsseldorf, September 12]

In response to the challenge of globalization, SMEs active in business between North-Rhine Westphalia and the Netherlands are being offered the assistance of a new web portal to a major competence network. The Inter-Ned project, as it is called, is headed by LGH (a joint advisory institution of the trade chambers and other trade associations in NRW) and it is funded by the EU INTERREG IIIA program and the regional partners.

<http://www.inter-ned.info>

### **ARDENNES OUTLET CENTER**

[BIZ: Verviers, September 10]

The Ardennes Outlet Center, a shopping mall on the site of the former Verviers West Station, has been 'on-again and off-again' - for about 10 years. Construction has however now started - as of March 29. Completion of the mall is now scheduled for the end of this year, with a EUR 24m budget on a 9,840-m<sup>2</sup> site. The project is expected to have over 50 retail outlets; to provide an initial 800 parking slots, rising to 1,100; to create 250 jobs (85% sourced locally) and to attract 1,5 million visitors annually.

<http://www.ardennesoutlet.com>

### **WEERTS' SAMRO TRAILERS**

[BIZ: Liège, September 9]

Weerts Logistics is going to set up an assembly line for Samro semi-trailers in one of the halls at Hauts-Sarts in Herstal and assemble vehicles for the Benelux, Northern France and a part of Germany, using trailer kits from the French trailer builder. Similar agreements are being worked out in the Czech Republic and Portugal. Each assembly line will be servicing an area with a radius of 1,000 kilometers. Current figures are projecting 1,200 trailers assembled annually by 2009. (Source: <http://www.truck-business.com/>).

<http://www.weerts.be>

### **EUR 70M AACHEN ARCADES**

[BIZ: Aachen, September 7]

In a period which has seen the completion of the new Bijenkorf in Maastricht and the Galeries Saint Lambert in Liège, Aachen, not to be outdone, is planning to build its 'Arcades' [Aachen Arkaden] at the corner of the Trierer Strasse and the Eisenbahnweg. A total investment volume of EUR 70m includes a 20,000-m<sup>2</sup> lot with 26,000m<sup>2</sup> of rentable space including 16,000 m<sup>2</sup> of retail space to let. This is about the size of two large department stores. There will also be 930 parking spaces for customers. Construction is scheduled to start next spring with completion in the course of 2006.

<http://www.aachenarkaden.de>

### **FLANDERS EUROPE'S FUTURE**

[BIZ: Brussels, September 2]

Flanders has been named Region of the Future for Benelux in fDi magazine's bid to find Europe's top city or region for 2004-2005. The UK-based business location publication, part of the Financial Times Business group, put a panel of experts to work to determine the 30 first-round winners in the competition. Flanders emerged as winner of the Benelux section with economic potential and the quality of schools and universities distinguishing it from its closest rival. Pascal Walrave, Managing Director of the Flanders Foreign Investment Office (FFIO), said Flanders' win in the Benelux section highlighted the region's attraction for foreign businesses with its superb transport and communications infrastructure, its high-quality workforce and its location at the center of the European economy.

The contest for "European Cities and Regions of the Future" is divided into three parts, with the first naming the best locations in 19 sub-regions. The following stage narrows down the field by reducing to five broader geographical regions – northern, eastern, western, central and southern Europe. A final stage will name the European City or Region of the Future with other awards given for the best locations in individual categories. The winners will be announced in fDi magazine's October/November edition. <http://www.fdimagazine.com>

## **BRIDGESTONE IN LIEGE**

[IND: Liège, September 2]

The Japanese Bridgestone Tire Group has recently acquired the Mecamold foundry at Hauts-Sarts in Herstal. Founded in 1965, the company first belonged to Uniroyal, then to the American company Abex, before being transferred in 1978 to a Mr Scholtus, who is still running it today.

Mecamold designs and produces tire molds, primarily for Bridgestone which has been its main customer. Mecamold employs about 200 including about 170 on the shop floor. A sister company, FCT at La Calamine, will also go to the Japanese parent company. The new company will be called "New Mecamold". The high level of specialization at the Mecamold foundry and plant convinced the Japanese, who did not have a factory of this type in Europe. Bridgestone employs 110,000 worldwide and achieves EUR 800 m in profits.

<http://www.mecamold.be>

## **MEDIA MARKT LIEGE**

[BIZ: Liège, September 2]

The new Media Markt on the third floor of Galeries Saint-Lambert in Liège represents an investment of EUR 4m and expects to attract 200,000 visitors per month. When it opened, it gave first-time visitors a large-scale paper bag, which was probably large enough to carry an extra shopper in. The splendid crystal palace-like, Galeries Saint-Lambert development could also be very useful in funneling people from the Place Saint Lambert to the potentially very attractive squares of Saint Etienne, Saint Denis and some of the excellent small shops there. With a little bit of work on some of the facades, these could in fact be the Liège equivalent of the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Plein in Maastricht.

<http://www.media-markt.be>

## **SOLAR POWER AT AVANTIS**

[BIZ: Heerlen, August 23]

Solland Solar Energy (see issue 82), headed by G. Boxhoorn, a former director of Shell Helmond's solar energy department, is planning a move from Wijnandsrade to the Avantis Science and Business Park, between Heerlen and Aachen. Negotiations are ongoing. The business would represent an investment of EUR 70m for a new building and 45 people would be employed in the initial period to produce the solar panels. It is expected that this number would grow to 200 jobs by the year 2010. LIOF, the Limburg Development Company is also thought to be interested in investing in the company.

<http://www.limburger.nl>

## **NUTH SERVICES JUMBOS**

[BIZ: Nuth, August 20]

The Nuth-based company, Direct Maintenance, received its European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Part-145 approval from the Netherlands' Civil Aviation Authorities on August 1.

Part-145 approval, issued under the new EASA legislation, will allow Direct Maintenance to offer line and transit maintenance at Amsterdam-Schiphol Airport to B747 operators.

<http://www.directmaintenance.nl>

## **EUR 400M TRIANEL CCGT PLANT**

[BIZ/INFRA: Aachen, August 18]

The final go-ahead on the Meuse-Rhine energy trader, Trianel's new EUR 400m combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant (see Issue 92) will come in Q1, 2005. However, on the basis of the permits acquired, construction can start this autumn, so that the start-up should be September 2007 at the latest. The choice of location is Hamm-Uentrop, a Westphalian industrial town, which, curiously enough, is also the site of the largest Hindu temple in Continental Europe. The project allows city power companies a degree of price security for their long-term energy requirements lessening their dependence on the wholesale market. The power available to city utilities depends on their contributions.

The level of interest in the plan, both in Germany and abroad led to the choice of a 800 MW power station. It will be built in two 400 MW sections. The investment volume for the two including the plant auxiliary, the annex plant and the infrastructure is EUR 400m. The plant will produce 4.8 billion kWh or 0.88% of the total German requirement – a figure based on a net production of 544.8 billion kWh in 2002. The plant will use 8.3 billion kWh of gas per annum.

<http://www.trianel.de>

## **LOCATING IN LIMBURG (B)**

[BIZ: Hasselt, August 17]

G.O.M.- Limburg Development Agency has launched a new website to promote inward investment : [www.locateinlimburg.com](http://www.locateinlimburg.com) (alias [www.investinlimburg.com](http://www.investinlimburg.com)). The website offers information about the principal greenfield and brownfield locations in Limburg and basic information about labor law, taxation and corporate law. Foreign investors will also find information about visas, work permits and residence permits. The site also contains a news section. The Limburg Development Agency (G.O.M.) is a leading public provider of business support in Limburg, providing free expert advice to domestic and foreign companies.

Over the past 50 years, the Limburg Development Agency has played a key role in the outstanding economic performance of Limburg by stimulating the growth of local businesses and by attracting new investment to the region.

G.O.M.-Limburg Development Agency closely cooperates with Flanders' Foreign Investment Office to attract foreign investment and is an executive partner in the Meuse Rhine Triangle project. G.O.M.-Limburg Development Agency is also the 'center of excellence' for inward investment promotion of all Flemish G.O.M.'s.

<http://www.locateinlimburg.com/>

## **HYUNDAI-MOBIS**

[BIZ: Lummen, August 16]

Hyundai-Mobis is investing EUR 5.5m in its new European HQ in Lummen. All group administrative, financial and commercial services will be located next to the existing EDC. The group services both the automotive division of Hyundai and Kia. Approximately 50 new jobs will be created.

<http://www.mobis.co.kr/eng/>

## **NEW EUR 20M MATSUSHITA LINE**

[BIZ: Tessenderlo, August 16]

Matsushita Battery Belgium ('Panasonic') is to invest EUR 20 m to increase the efficiency and capacity of its dry battery production line. The new line will enable the company to increase the performance and durability of its consumer products, especially for the latest digital applications (CD- and MP3 players, digital cameras, etc.). The substantial increase of production capacity is required to meet increased European demand. MBB employs more than 450 people in Tessenderlo.

<http://www.panasonic-batteries.com/index.cfm?PageID=15133>

## **EUR 7M INFRA FOR ROTHENBACH**

[BIZ: Wassenberg, August 12]

The Wassenberg city council has approved plans for a leisure and recreational park on the old Rothenbach barracks site. A Dutch investment group is going to build 200 holiday homes there. Construction starts in spring 2005 and the streets and drainage systems alone will cost EUR 7m. The cost for the total project will be in double digit millions of Euros.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **INCREASE IN AACHEN START-UPS**

[BIZ: Aachen, August 11]

The District of Aachen has shown strong growth in start-ups, according to the annual report of its Economic Development Company. The path to independent business has also been chosen by people without employment setting up their own companies in the service sector. Their share has risen 50% in comparison with last year.

<http://www.wdr.de>

## **EUROGENTEC RESULTS 2003/2004**

[BIZ/LIFE-SCI: Liège, August 10]

Comment: Although cash flow decreased to EUR 2.3m, consolidated shareholders' equity remains at EUR 15.3m. In 2003/2004 investments were considerable at EUR 10.6m. This provided new quality equipment. Investments should be considerably lower in 2004/2005. The group's debt has increased and they will strive to reduce it. The liquidity ratio is favorable at 117%. Efforts to find new products have been entrusted to a team of 7 led by Dr Cabradilla, with 2 members in the US and 5 in Belgium. Its main objective is to launch new products (Tools for Genomics and Proteomics) within the next 12 months.

<http://www.eurogentec.com/>

## **2 CONTRACTS FOR SPACEBEL**

[BIZ/SCI-TECH: Liège, August 9]

SPACEBEL, software engineering company at the Liège Space Center has 2 major new projects:

- The Pléiades project, a major EUR 2m, multi-sensor satellite contract and
- HADS, involvement in the development of an International Space Station project.

<http://www.spacebel.com>

## **DSM SERVES 200,000 DRINKS**

[BIZ: Heerlen, August 9]

Pre-Olympic production of PeptoPro®Sports, the innovative energizer drink developed by DSM that will help Dutch Olympic athletes recover faster after intense physical effort, has hit record highs. This week saw the delivery of the 200,000th carton. In the last few weeks before the Olympic Games production has been boosted to meet the demand from the almost three hundred athletes who use PeptoPro®. Swimmer Inge de Bruijn, for instance, has asked DSM, after consultation with her coach Paul Bergen, to ship cartons of PeptoPro® to her training site in the United States. Earlier, the Dutch Olympic rowing team also asked for an additional pallet to be delivered to its training site in Seville.

<http://www.dsm.com>

## **QUANTA TO EXPAND**

[BIZ: Aachen, August 6]

The Quanta computer company, which has recently arrived in Aachen, is planning the construction of a central parts warehouse for Europe that will create 50 new jobs. The Taiwan company set up its European service center eight months ago and repairs 8,000 computers a month there. Quanta employs 175 in Aachen, and 25,000 worldwide.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **TRANSLUCENT CONCRETE**

[BIZ/SCI-TECH: Aachen, August 5]

In 2001, the Hungarian architect Aron Losonczi invented LiTraCon, light transmitting concrete. LiTraCon is a block of concrete that becomes light conducting by virtue of embedded optical fiber. Light passes through the concrete from one side to the other without any significant loss and lights up the darker side. Shadows are transmitted and shown on the opposite surface. Currently LiTraCon is in its testing phase and various prototypes for design and architecture have been completed for exhibitions in Eindhoven, Stockholm, Budapest, Cologne, London, Glasgow and Frankfurt/Main.

<http://www.litracon.com>

## **EUR 36M FLAT GLASS PLANT**

[BIZ: Herzogenrath, August 3]

Saint Gobain, a producer and distributor of glass and other materials, active in 46 countries worldwide, with a workforce of 170,500, is the leading player in the flat glass business and provides 50% of all glass for the European automotive market.

It is now to develop a new EUR 36m glass smelting plant in Herzogenrath, which will be the most up-to-date worldwide, and will safeguard the employment of those working at the site. Construction starts in November. The company employs 2,000 in the region and will employ 150 at the new plant.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **FLEMISH CONSTRUCTION MARKET**

[BIZ: Hasselt, August 2]

The Flemish construction confederation has concluded, on the basis of the 2004 figures, that the industry is on the way to recovery. The confederation expects the number of building permits for new houses and apartments to rise by 9%, on an annual basis, and the number of jobs in the industry to increase. The positive trend for the first two months of the year has continued. The confederation expects that the number of annual permits for single-family homes to increase to 15,750 (up 6.2%), for new apartments the figure is put at 18,263 (up 12%) and refurbishment, at 21,350 units is an absolute record.

Other construction, not including housing (offices, industry and trade) also looks set to improve. Following a major dip in the past three years, the industry is on the way up again. The most recent figures from 2004 show a possible volume of 27,5 million m<sup>3</sup>. This is a rise of 22% on 2003. At the end of the nineties, the volume was around 40 million m<sup>3</sup>. The confederation notes that government investment, including that of local government, is lagging behind. They hope that the new Flemish government will do more about its own investment in construction.

<http://www.hbvl.be>

## **LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **EUR 50M VIADUCT UPGRADE**

[LOG: Moresnet, September 10]

The upgrade of the Moresnet railway viaduct, one of the biggest railway bridges in the world, is nearing completion. The bridge is 1,153 meters long and 58 meters high and is has been upgraded by Belgian rail, SNCB, at a cost of EUR 50m. The final work will be done on September 19 and then the freight trains will start running again on line 24, which links the port of Antwerp to Aachen, moving across the valley of the Geule at 60 kph. There is also to be a trip by the legendary Orient Express over the viaduct.

<http://www.viaqulia.be/>

### **NEW APPROACH RADAR**

[INFRA: Liège, September 8]

New approach radar has now been installed at Liège airport. The total investment is around EUR 8m for the equipment coming from the Thalys ATM. Equipment installation was effected in two phases: the first for the radar and antennae in the first half of 2002; the IT and screen equipment in the course of 2002; the operational tests from November 2002 through September 2003 with operational validation from February 2004. The new radar allows a simpler approach than the previous sort with less circling. It is also secure, environment friendly, economical and provides more precise information for those living in the area. Additional functions include Short-Term Conflict Alert; Minimum Safe Altitude Warning and Danger Area Infringement Warning. Operational use runs from June 7.

<http://www.liegeairport.com>

### **TDS AUTOMOTIVE NOW YUCAIPA**

[LOG: Hasselt September 1]

TDS automotive, with its European Headquarters in Hasselt, has announced that it has been acquired by "Yucaipa", a Los Angeles based private equity firm. Terms of the purchase of TDS Logistics, Inc. ("TDS") were not disclosed. Transition to the new ownership structure will not trigger any operational changes in TDS day-to-day dealings with customers and TDS' employee base and complete senior leadership team will remain intact.

Founded in 1986, TDS is one of the world's leading suppliers of value-added material handling logistics solutions to the automotive industry. TDS has become a preferred vendor for some of the major automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) including BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Volkswagen Group.

<http://www.tdsautomotive.com/>

### **IRON RHINE ALTERNATIVE**

[LOG: Brussels, August 27]

The Belgian Federal Government is looking for a new rail access route to the German Ruhrgebiet. As a result of resistance to the reactivation of the Iron Rhine trajectory, through central Limburg, the current favorite is the new route planned via Genk and Sittard/Geleen to the port of Duisburg (see also <http://www.rivertosuccess.nl>).

<http://www.brf.be>

## **225,000 M<sup>2</sup>, EUR 40M ALDI DC**

[LOG: Eschweiler, August 24]

Aldi-South's new distribution center in Kinzweiler will open at the beginning of November. The 225,000m<sup>2</sup> discount supermarket DC with offices, storage, temperature-controlled and refrigerated facilities is on the Mariadorfer Strasse in Eschweiler. Total investment is EUR 40m.

A new building was necessary because the existing logistical facility, built in Würselen in 1966, could no longer meet current requirements. Construction started in March 2003. When the new center starts up, the old Würselen center will close. The center will be supplying 50 company branches in the city and district of Aachen and in the districts of Düren and Heinsberg and Euskirchen on a daily basis. In addition, it will provide training courses for 90 who work at the facility.

<http://www.lz-net.de>

## **NEW GENK DC OWNERS**

[LOG: Genk, August 16]

Standard Life Investments has purchased Genk Logistics projects on behalf of its European property growth fund, which includes an 18,000m<sup>2</sup> multifunctional warehouse (up on the original figure) for NYK in Genk. This will focus on NYK customers who produce copiers and hardware.

The centers will have a DC function, but also include value-added logistics in assembly, packaging, labeling and testing. In the initial phase it is expected to employ 40. This project is in cooperation with Eurinpro. A further deal includes 50,000m<sup>2</sup> in Willebroek. The total investment value of the two projects is EUR 33m.

<http://www.logistiekkrant.nl>

## **MAJOR PFSWEB LIEGE CONTRACT**

[LOG: Liège, August 16]

PFSweb has won an additional Raytheon Aircraft Contract to operate a western hemisphere aircraft parts distribution center. This follows the recent PFSweb contract for the RAPID Center Serving Europe.

PFSweb, a business process outsourcing (BPO) firm based near Dallas, has won a contract with Raytheon Aircraft to operate its RAPID parts center in Grapevine, TX that serves its customers in all of the Western Hemisphere. The contract adds to its recent contract with Raytheon to handle parts fulfillment in Europe from PFSweb's state of the art, 14,000m<sup>2</sup> warehousing facility in Liège.

[http://www.pfsweb.com/about/global\\_european.html](http://www.pfsweb.com/about/global_european.html)

### **INTELLIGENT DRUG DELIVERY**

[LIFE-SCI: Perth/ Jülich September 2]

Global nanotechnology company pSivida Limited (ASX: PSD) has announced that its UK operating subsidiary pSiMedica Limited has been granted a further European patent for BioSilicon™. pSiMedica works with Jülich in this area.

BioSilicon™ addresses many of the current issues associated with oral drug delivery:

- Protection of the drug in the acid environment of the stomach through the fact that BioSilicon™ does not dissolve in acidic solutions.
- BioSilicon™ is designed to slow-release drugs through controllable biodegradation providing the opportunity to optimize delivery and absorption.

Chip-based BioSilicon™ devices would offer processor-based delivery targeted to different parts of the gut.

- BioSilicon™, allows drug molecules to be held in nanosized pockets that release tiny pulses of drug as the BioSilicon™ dissolves.

<http://www.pside.com.au>

### **PAION CLOSSES WITH EUR 9.8M**

[BIZ/LIFE-SCI: Aachen, September 1]

PAION GmbH, a biopharmaceutical company with a focus on stroke (CVA), announced at the beginning of the Summer, that it had raised EUR 9.8 million in its fourth financing round, bringing total funding to EUR 51.1 million since its establishment in 2000.

Innoven Partenaires, a French venture capital firm which also manages the French Post Office high-tech venture funds, led the financing round. A second new investor, OTC Asset Management, Paris as well as existing investors, such as 3i Group, Duesseldorf/D, Genevest S.A., Geneva, Neomed Innovation, Oslo, S-VC, Aachen and PAION's private investors from Switzerland, UK and the US also participated in this financing round.

At the end of 2003, PAION completed a Phase II clinical study in acute ischaemic stroke with its lead product Desmoteplase with very promising results. PAION intends to use the newly acquired funds specifically to prepare for and initiate the required pivotal trials while it has sufficient time to select a partner for the further development and marketing of Desmoteplase. Proceeds will also be used to scale up the production of Desmoteplase to commercial scale.

<http://www.paion.de/>

### **DIGITAL DNA DETECTION**

[LIFE-SCI: Liège, August 16]

There will be a 'Focused Workshop on electronic recognition of DNA molecules' at the Château de Colonster (Liège U Sart Tilman Campus), September 1-3. Check the web site for the program.

The ability to manipulate the enormous information resources contained in DNA molecules for IT applications will be one of the greatest scientific challenges at the interface of biology, information science and electrical engineering in the coming decade. Advances in integrated circuit nanotechnology have provided new tools to investigate the electrical activity of genetic materials, and possibly to develop and design new devices to detect the presence of DNA and/or protein molecules.

This workshop is a forum of experts in various disciplines ranging from biology, biochemistry, biophysics to electrical engineering, who will address key issues in the recognition or detection of DNA and protein molecules in confined geometry and nano-electronic environment. Emphasis will be placed on transport through ion channels, artificial nanopores, or inorganic quantum wires.

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/micrelec/dna/>

## **SONY GOES WITH AIXTRON**

[SCI-TECH: Aachen / Atsugi, Japan, August 9]

Aixtron has announced the purchase and successful start-up of an AIX 2600G3 system by Sony. The system is capable of growing on multiple wafer configurations ranging from 3" to 6" diameter and is equipped to process various compound semiconductor devices. The system includes an EpiRAS® 2000TT sensor for in-situ measurement of doping, composition, thickness and true temperature during the epitaxial growth. Sony decided to purchase the AIX 2600G3 reactor after carefully evaluating the capabilities of systems offered by various MOVPE suppliers.

A Project Leader at Sony stated: "We have proved that the AIX 2600G3 system is a highly versatile tool equally well-suited both for R&D and high-volume production for the large process window, high reproducibility and uniformity of epitaxial growth. Furthermore, the EpiRAS® allows us to control the epitaxial process, essential for the development of next generation devices and their subsequent transfer to mass-production. Last but not least, we were impressed by the co-operation on customer service and support provided by AIXTRON's Japanese subsidiary and the HQ in Aachen." <http://www.amo.de>

©Meuse-Rhine Journal