



Foundation stone-laying ceremony for Research and Development Building 97

23. Januar 2009

Welcome of Matthias M. Baltisberger
Head of Basel Site

(Check against delivery)

Frau Regierungsrätin Schneider,
distinguished guests and media representatives,
fellow Roche colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to the foundation stone-laying ceremony for our new Research and Development building.

It is only six months since we commenced construction work on Building 97, our new laboratory building on Wettsteinallee, yet today we are all here to lay the foundation stone and celebrate a step that truly “cements” the project.

This building project represents a further investment of approximately 250 million Swiss francs by Roche and is a clear statement of our commitment to the Basel site and to our home town. The selection of locations for major investments is not a decision based on our heritage. Even the Basel site repeatedly has to assert its position in the internal competition between Roche sites. Overall, Basel is well placed to attract investments.

We can build here on the outstanding skills of our 7,500-strong workforce. This plays a crucial role in ensuring that we meet one of the key requirements for investment in research and development. Moreover, we comfortably satisfy key political requirements, have a relationship with the local authorities that is based on trust and mutual respect, and have first-class architects and experienced construction companies on our doorstep.

However, it is important for us to continue to look ahead and offer sustainably optimal conditions capable of maintaining the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Basel site. Thus we will be able to safeguard existing jobs in the region and create new ones. In doing so we will not only strengthen Roche Basel as an entity, but the whole of northwest Switzerland as a centre of industry and commerce. Our commitment to our home town of Basel stems from our ability to remain competitive here because we want and indeed have to do so.

Building 97 marks a further important step in our policy of sustainable site development, a policy that enables us to respond flexibly to local and global business developments within our company.

The new building is the first element in a strategic development plan for Wettsteinallee that was approved by Basel's city parliament in May 2008. It is intended to provide a guide for further development along Wettsteinallee. By choosing Herzog & de Meuron as our architects we are once again reinforcing our commitment to high-quality architecture in the Bauhaus tradition.

We are keen to ensure that the company's site remains compatible with construction developments in the city in the long term and that a good relationship is maintained with our immediate neighbourhood. This is why we will not be constructing any glass-fronted buildings – like our new biotechnology centre, for example – on Wettsteinallee.

Architecturally, Building 97 fits in with the existing buildings on Wettsteinallee. Furthermore, Roche is not making full use of the theoretically possible construction volume and has taken a number of precautions to reduce dust and noise. Precautions of this type are not normally taken on construction sites. This has been done out of consideration for our immediate neighbours and in the knowledge that the construction work will be a source of inconvenience to them.

We would now like to show you a short video that will give you an initial impression of the work that has been done in the past six months. After that Jan van Koeveringe, our Head of Pharma Technical Operations, will be speaking to you.

Thank you very much.