



Foundation stone-laying ceremony for Research and Development Building 97

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Speech of Dr. Jan van Koeveringe
Head Pharma Global Technical Operations

(Check against delivery)

Frau Regierungsrätin Schneider,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Let me first extend a very warm welcome! I am delighted to be here with you today to lay the foundation stone for Building 97, our new Technical Research and Development building. From 2011 the building will become a centre for researching and developing methods of formulating active ingredients into tablets, capsules and injectables. Put simply, the new facility will serve as a kind of high-tech kitchen in which we develop "recipes" for the production of various dosage forms.

As Matthias Baltisberger has already mentioned, the choice of location was largely dictated by the availability of a skilled workforce in Basel. Top-qualified and experienced employees are particularly essential for success in technical research and development because they bring innovation not only for Roche, but for the entire healthcare sector. Here too, the focus is ultimately on patients and the delivery of easy to apply and effective medication that will help to make a significant improvement to patients' lives.

To offer our staff ideal working conditions and an inspiring environment for their challenging tasks, our new Research and Development building will provide state-of-the-art technology and workplaces. Building 97 will bring together all the Basel-based galenical research and development departments that are currently spread out over several locations. This alone will provide a boost to interdisciplinary collaboration.

Yet there are other important reasons for building a new research and development facility:

- We are currently experiencing a growing demand for space, driven by Roche's expanding pipeline and the use of cutting-edge R&D technology. Indeed, nowadays, dosage forms have to be every bit as innovative as the active ingredients themselves to ensure simple, safe and effective use by physicians and patients.

- Building 97 will replace Building 60, a now outdated laboratory block that no longer fully meets the changed demands. The new facility will expand Roche's development capacity for liquid and solid dosage forms. Building 97 is designed to end our reliance on so-called contract research organisations for access to standard processes. This will make technical development faster and more efficient: activities previously outsourced for lack of capacity will in future be performed in-house.
- In addition to galenical research and development, the new building will also be used to produce drugs for use in (worldwide) clinical trials. Building 97 will provide technical facilities for the production of the small quantities of drugs needed for clinical trials.
- The new building also addresses the continuously increasing quality requirements that pharmaceutical production has to meet. These growing demands not only focus on the protection of patients' safety but also – and a top priority at Roche – on a safe environment for our employees. Some of the substances to be processed in Building 97 are highly active, which means that even tiny concentrations have a pharmacological effect. Special precautions, such as airlocks, are therefore required for handling such ingredients. After all, our products are intended to treat only patients and not our staff working in the new building!

Finally, I would like to present a few key facts and figures about the building and construction timeframe:

- Building 97 will accommodate approximately 100 workplaces.
- Construction will roughly extend over a three-year period; work started on site in August 2008 and the building is scheduled to come into service in Q3 2011.
- The entire building sits on three basement storeys. The northern section overlooking the Wettsteinallee will have an additional five above-ground storeys (including the ground

floor) and rise to a total height of 20 m. The 40 m tall southern block facing the Roche site will be nine storeys high (including the ground floor).

- At the peak of construction activity, up to 250 construction worker and labourers will be busy on site.

- As has already been mentioned, the total investment runs to some CHF 250 million.

Ladies and gentlemen, I should like to say a special word of thanks to our "next-door neighbours" on the Wettsteinallee for their patience and understanding in suffering the inconvenience of a nearby construction project on this scale.

An equally big thank-you (also from me personally) goes to the city authorities for their constructive collaboration and, not least, to all the in-house and external project managers and staff for their great support in the realisation of this project.

Thank you very much.