

**Foundation stone laying ceremony for the new
laboratory building for quality control and quality
assurance in Kaiseraugst**

19 July 2010

**Welcome by Matthias M. Baltisberger
Head of Basel Site**

(Check against delivery.)

Mayor Heller,
esteemed guests and media representatives, dear colleagues

Welcome to the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new laboratory building for quality control and quality assurance. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you in Kaiseraugst today.

Some twelve months ago, we dedicated a production facility on this site and here we are today laying the foundation stone for another state-of-the-art building. I am delighted to see that although global economic conditions are still far from ideal, Roche remains committed to making capital investments, some key examples of which are located in the dynamic environment of northwestern Switzerland.

What, you may ask, makes Roche want to invest in the Basel/Kaiseraugst Site? Why, indeed, are we now investing another 100 million Swiss francs or so in a new laboratory building?

We are investing in northwestern Switzerland because we have found the conditions here to be good for our purposes, both all-round and in comparison with other locations. The region has a host of attractive facets, making it so much more than the sum of its parts.

One of the most important aspects is our positive, results-oriented cooperation with the authorities. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mayor Heller, and your colleagues, for the open dialogue we have consistently enjoyed, and for the constructive way in which we have always worked together. Our successful working relationship has stood the test of time and has enabled us to get yet another project off the ground quickly.

The region's highly experienced, top-class architects and construction firms are another factor favouring investment here at the Basel/Kaiseraugst Site. My thanks to you all. We are delighted to have enjoyed such fruitful working relationships with so many of you over so many years. Trust-based partnership is, and will remain, key to the success of our projects. It allows us to implement numerous major investment projects rapidly, on schedule, and within budget.

Roche's employees in Basel and Kaiseraugst constitute another crucial factor. It is they who make a decisive contribution to ensuring that Roche's innovative medicines significantly improve the quality of patients' lives, and thereby contribute substantially to the competitiveness and economic growth of northwestern Switzerland.

The latest figures speak for themselves: Last year alone, Roche created around 200 new full-time positions in the region. Some 8,600 employees from around 80 countries currently work at the Basel/Kaiseraugst Site. This growth reflects the company's confidence in your performance and expertise. My sincere thanks to you for all your efforts.

The extensive experience of employees currently working in quality control and quality assurance at our production facilities in Basel and Kaiseraugst has also helped shape the planning for the new laboratory building, and will ensure an optimal design. The state-of-the-art interior of this building will support all work processes to optimum effect. Open-plan laboratories will afford employees a high degree of flexibility, and promote efficiency and direct interaction.

As you see, the building work has already begun and is coming on apace. At a rate of one floor per month, the building shell should be in place by the start of 2011. It will then take around a year for the interior work to be completed throughout the building. The new building is scheduled to be fully operational by the end of 2012, and will provide space for around 150 employees in laboratories and offices.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my sincere thanks for your commitment and contribution. Successful cooperation between all concerned and the dedication of each and every one of you will help make this project an all-round success.

I wish you all the best in this endeavour!

Thank you.

I would now like to hand over to John Pinion, Head of Quality and Compliance at Pharma Global Technical Operations.